



**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA calls on KwaZulu-Natal Premier to renovate government building to save on rental costs**

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EMBARGO    None

ENQUIRIES    communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) calls on the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal to urgently source funding to renovate the long-neglected Esplanade Government Building in Stalwart Simelane Street.

The building was closed down by the Department of Employment and Labour 12 years ago owing to non-compliance with occupational health and safety regulations and stands as a stark symbol of governmental neglect and missed opportunities for efficient use of public resources. Previously utilised by the Department of Social Development, the building's closure forced the Department to rent costly office space in Durban. This financial strain could be alleviated by renovating the existing structure, which has more than eight floors and more than 100 offices.

The Office of the Premier previously committed to investing over R500 million in renovating this building, but this promise remains unfulfilled. The PSA demands immediate action to honour this commitment, urging the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to either take over the building's renovation or allocate funds to restore it. Recent inspections by the PSA revealed that the building is falling prey to vandalism, resulting further deterioration.

The PSA urges the Premier and relevant departments to act decisively to prevent further degradation of the building and to restore it to its former glory for the benefit of all citizens. The Department of Social Development is wasting millions on rental costs whilst a viable solution lies in ruin. An investment of some R1 billion is now needed to fully renovate and restore the building, reflecting the compounded costs of more than a decade of neglect. Revitalising this building will save significant rental expenses, provide a stable working environment for public servants, restore a historic site, whilst safeguard public funds and ensuring efficient use of government resources.

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