



MEDIA RELEASE PSA concerned about drinking water crisis at SASSA Records Management Centre in Cape Town

DATE 12 November 2024

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about the fact that the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) Records Management Centre in Cape Town in the Western Cape is facing an ongoing municipal drinking water quality challenge.

This situation has to staff having to leave the office during working hours. The SASSA Occupational Health and Safety Policy states that, *“if a building or part thereof does not have basic services for the minimum period of two (2) hours or more due to technical faults or circumstances beyond the control of the agency, that the relevant manager release employees/officials to either work from home or for managers to make alternative arrangements for critical services to be continued. This will be done after confirmation is received from the responsible official that such services will not be restored within the next two (2) hours.”*

The matter was escalated to SASSA management for a response. The acting Regional Executive Manager has since informed the PSA that sufficient clean drinking water has been procured as an interim measure and that SASSA has provided employees with ample quality drinking water throughout the water crisis. This version of events was, however, refuted by PSA members.

The PSA has since called on the Department of Employment and Labour to assign a Labour Inspector to the address the concern. The site-visit date remains undisclosed. The PSA will continue to defend employees' basic human right to clean drinking water as per the requirement set out in the *South African National Standard 241* read in conjunction with section 5 of the *Water Services Act, 108 of 1997* (quality of potable water). The PSA's occupational health and safety representative will also continue to monitor the situation.

END

