

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA concerned over Department of Employment and Labour's failure to enforce OHS issues at Mbombela High Court
DATE	21 January 2025
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the Department of Employment and Labour's (DEL) ongoing non-compliance with occupational health and safety (OHS) regulations at Mbombela High Court in Mpumalanga.

A prohibition order issued on 23 November 2024 under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)* was temporarily revoked, granting the Department of Justice/Office of the Chief Justice 60 days to comply. The deadline lapsed on 20 January 2025 and the Court remains non-compliant with OHS standards. The situation has worsened owing to heavy rainfall in the area, exacerbating existing issues such as leaking roofs, a non-functional HVAC system, locked emergency exits on the 4th floor, and non-operational elevators. Additionally, fire extinguishers have not been serviced since 2019, and offices designated for file collection are plagued by an unbearable odour. The PSA is also aware of conditions in administrative offices, where buckets are placed on the floors to catch rainwater. Furthermore, the Department has failed to adhere to the extended 60-day compliance period following the postponement of the prohibition order.

The PSA is alarmed by the lack of response from the DEL regarding requests for inspections at various courts and offices in Mpumalanga. These requests have been ignored by inspectors, suggesting an intimidation that prevents them from inspecting government buildings.

The PSA will continue to monitor the situation at the High Court and other government facilities and will persist in applying pressure on the DEL to ensure compliance with OHS inspections and to close any buildings that pose a risk to health and safety to employees and members of the public.

END