

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA concerned that timeous inspections by Department of Employment and Labour places workers at risk
DATE	17 December 2024
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) in Mpumalanga has raised serious concerns regarding the non-compliance of inspectors from the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) following the PSA's reports of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) issues at various government offices.

The PSA is deeply disturbed by allegations that inspectors tasked with addressing OHS complaints are being intimidated by their supervisors and prevented from carrying out critical inspections. Despite formal reports submitted by the PSA, inspectors have yet to receive the necessary approvals to investigate the reported concerns. The PSA has identified several government offices in Mpumalanga where OHS issues remain unresolved, including:

- Nelspruit Magistrate Court
- Standerton Court
- Vosman Court
- Evander Court
- Secunda Court
- Nelspruit SAPS

The PSA formally brought these concerns to the attention of the relevant inspector and requested visits to the affected workplaces. However, the inspector indicated that approval to conduct the investigations had been withheld by their supervisor. This unexplained delay in addressing OHS concerns is both unacceptable and deeply troubling.

The PSA is particularly alarmed by the reluctance of senior DEL management to approve investigations that are critical to ensuring the safety and well-being of employees. This lack of action undermines the mandate of the DEL to uphold workplace safety standards.

In response, the PSA is engaging with the DEL National Office to intervene and ensure:

- Immediate restoration of operations at the Emalahleni Labour Centre.
- An independent investigation into the circumstances preventing inspections.
- Accountability for those responsible for delaying these critical OHS investigations.

The PSA remains committed to advocating for the rights and safety of its members and will take further steps, if necessary, to hold the Department accountable for its inaction.

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