

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA demands immediate closure of Coastal TVET College Umlazi BB Campus owing to health and safety violations**

DATE 30 July 2024

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) urgently calls for the immediate closure of Coastal TVET College, Umlazi BB Campus, owing to extensive non-compliance with occupational health and safety (OHS) regulations.


These violations significantly endanger the lives of employees and students. The PSA demands that Labour Inspectors from the Department of Employment and Labour conduct an urgent site inspection and enforce closure within 48 hours to ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals on the premises.

During a recent site assessment, PSA representatives identified the following critical OHS non-compliance issues:

- Neglected air-conditioning systems: Air conditioning units in the administrative building, classrooms, and computer labs have not been serviced for four years, increasing the risk of respiratory infections.
- Electrical hazards: Exposed electrical wiring poses a severe risk of electric shock.
- Improper waste management: Inadequate waste storage conditions increase potential for infection and disease.
- Inadequate lighting: Poor lighting threaten the ocular health of employees.
- Electrical overload: Overloaded plug points in the Examination Department Office 1 create a fire risk.
- Improper document storage: Documents are inadequately stored, with potential organisational and safety issues.
- Structural integrity: The staff room floor is sinking, indicating significant structural deficiencies.
- Sanitation: The hand dryer in the female staff toilet is non-operational, compromising hygiene.
- Water damage: Persistent roof leaks have damaged ceilings, resulting in unpleasant odours and potential mould growth in multiple areas, including the library.
- Damaged infrastructure: Room D11's door is broken, compromising security and accessibility.
- Water and electrical hazards: Room D01 experiences water infiltration into electrical wiring during rainfall, presenting a severe electrocution risk.
- Roof and lighting issues: Room D20 has a leaking roof and poor lighting, exacerbating safety hazards.
- Chemical storage risks: Chemical containers are not adequately secured, with a risk of hazardous material exposure.

In view of these critical safety breaches, the PSA urges the Minister of Higher Education to ensure immediate corrective actions. Prompt intervention is essential to prevent accidents, injuries, or health issues arising from the current unsafe environment.

The PSA remains steadfast in its commitment to advocating for safe and healthy working conditions for all public servants. The PSA will continue to monitor the situation and will not hesitate to take further action to ensure compliance with OHS standards.



END