

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**PSA raises alarm over poor-quality health services at Witpoort Hospital in Limpopo**

**DATE**

17 January 2025

**EMBARGO**

None

**ENQUIRIES**

communication@psa.co.za

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about ongoing poor-quality health services at Witpoort Hospital in Limpopo.

The Hospital's deteriorating infrastructure, including unmaintained equipment in the cold room, pharmacy, theatre, and kitchen, has severely compromised the delivery of health services, constituting a significant violation of human rights. The PSA has received alarming reports regarding the pharmacy storeroom, which houses medication requiring controlled temperatures as mandated by the *Good Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacy Act 53 of 1974* as amended, which provides rules for the storage and distribution of thermolabile pharmaceutical products. The air-conditioning system in the storeroom has been malfunctioning for the past four months, resulting in temperatures ranging between 28°C and 37°C, far exceeding the maximum temperature of between 8°C and 25°C. This exposes medication to unsafe conditions, potentially rendering it ineffective and putting patients' health at risk.

The Hospital theatre also has critical air-conditioning issues, resulting in surgeries being done under uncomfortably hot conditions. The Central Sterile Services Department has been non-operational for three months, necessitating the daily transportation of instruments to Lephalale for sterilisation. The cold room in the Hospital's kitchen has been out of service for eight months, compromising the safe storage of perishable food, including meat, and raising concerns about food safety for patients and employees.

The PSA has made several attempts to engage the Hospital's CEO, Clinical Manager, and District Office but to no avail. The PSA calls on the Premier of Limpopo and the MEC for Health to hold the Head of Department accountable for failing to provide leadership and ensure the delivery of quality healthcare services to the community.

The PSA will continue to engage with the Department of Health Provincial Management to address non-compliance with occupational health and safety standards and has approached the Department of Employment and Labour to inspect the Hospital. Should conditions warrant, a prohibition order must be issued until the critical issues are resolved. The PSA remains steadfast in advocating for the rights and well-being of public servants and communities, emphasising that access to quality healthcare is a fundamental human right that must not be compromised.

END