

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA urges Department of Home Affairs to move employees from hazardous Malamulele Offices in Limpopo**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) visited the Department of Home Affairs, Malamulele Office in Collins Chabane Municipality, finding that the workplace was unsafe and posing health and safety risks for employees.

The office does not comply with occupational health and safety standards and employees should not be forced to work in such an environment. The office has 20 employees who work in six small offices with no space for free movement. Employees are using buckets to flush toilets as there is no running water in the building. They must also bring their own water to drink as there is often a shortage of drinking water. The yard is bushy and poses a danger to members of the public and employees, as snakes are frequently observed. In one incident, a snake entered the car of an employee. There are no cleaners, leaving offices dirty and exposing employees to respiratory problems. In addition, security is so lax that the office has experienced three burglaries. Employees are concerned about their safety as there is also extremely poor lighting. There is no kitchen for employees, leaving employees to eat in their cramped offices. There is no proper storeroom and important documents are left lying around with boxes being stacked on top of filing cabinets.

Members of the public are equally treated in disgraceful manner owing to public toilets being constantly out of order because of water shortages. The are smells terrible, forcing employees to permanently close windows and creates a problem with air circulation and ventilation in the small offices. In addition, there is no proper sheltered waiting area, leaving members of the public exposed to the elements.

The PSA has referred the matter to Department of Employment and Labour to conduct inspection. The PSA, however, urges the Department of Home Affairs to urgently find alternative accommodation that will provide dignity for both employees and members of the public. Allowing employees to work in such terrible conditions shows utter disrespect for their rights and integrity. The PSA will pursue this matter until these employees have been moved to safe, conducive offices.

END

