



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**PSA welcomes Prohibition Notice for Department of Home Affairs  
Malamulele offices in Limpopo owing to health risks**

DATE 17 July 2024

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the prohibition notice issued by the Department of Employment and Labour for the unsafe building that housed the Department of Home Affairs, Malamulele Office in Collins Chabane Municipality in Limpopo.

The PSA visited the office on 27 June 2024, where it was confronted by an unwelcoming and unsafe environment, as the building did not comply with occupational health and safety standards. The PSA discovered that the office has 20 employees who are forced to work in six tiny offices with no space for free movement. Employees did not have access to functional, flushing toilets and were forced to use buckets for sanitation. Public toilets were also constantly out of order. The area smelt bad, forcing employees to permanently close windows, which created a problem with air circulation and ventilation. The yard was not maintained and was bushy, with snakes posing a threat. Hygiene was neglected as there were no cleaners. There is no kitchen, forcing employees to eat in the cramped offices. Movement was difficult as files were scattered with no proper storeroom. There is also poor lighting in the office. There is further no proper shelter for the waiting area, which is an open space that does not provide proper protection against the elements.

The PSA had called on the Department of Home Affairs to urgently source alternative accommodation that will provide dignity for employees, but this plea was ignored. The matter was thus escalated to the Department of Employment and Labour to conduct inspection. A Labour Inspector conducted an inspection on 12 July 2024 and issued a prohibition notice upon realising that employees and clients were not safe in the building.

The PSA maintains the Union's call that the Department of Home Affairs must urgently source alternative accommodation that promotes the rights and integrity of employees and clients. The PSA is aware that departments tend to not act on notices issued by Labour Inspectors and the PSA urges the Department of Employment and Labour to monitor compliance with this notice to ensure compliance.

END

