

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA welcomes reopening of Polokwane Magistrates Court after 12 years**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the long-awaited reopening of the reconstructed Polokwane Magistrates Court building in Limpopo.

The building was engulfed by a fire in 2012 and reconstruction commenced only in 2019. The Court has ten courtrooms, and 18 holding cells and some 120 parking bays. According to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the reconstruction of the Court amounted to R82.8 million. The PSA trusts that there were no issues regarding the procurement processes as big projects of this nature often result in abuse of power, irregular and wasteful expenditure, maladministration, and corruption.

The reopening of the Court will assist the Department in achieving increased access to justice services as access to justice is a cornerstone of democracy. The state-of-the-art facility will ease connectivity and the Department will be able to take advantage of the technology. Full operation of the Court will enable the Department to timeously schedule court matters and address the backlog of cases, which inadvertently denies people of justice.

The building will further restore the dignity of public servants who often have to work in dilapidated, unsafe buildings. The PSA urges the Department to ensure that the Court building is maintained as many government buildings are neglected to the point of dilapidation as maintenance budgets are either inadequate or squandered by those entrusted with the responsibility of infrastructure development and maintenance.

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