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FOR PSA MEMBERS: **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTORAL  
BARGAINING COUNCIL (PHSDSBC) – FREE STATE**

11-09-2024

## Update: Free State National District Hospital situation post-fire

Following the unfortunate fire outbreak at the National District Hospital, which led to its temporary closure, the PSA would like to provide an update on the current situation. Whilst most sections of the Hospital remain closed, the maternity ward is now open and operational. However, the PSA has become aware of several concerning developments in the aftermath of the fire and will monitor these.

### Unauthorised occupancy and theft

It has been reported to the PSA that unauthorised individuals occupied the Hospital premises during the closure. These individuals are reportedly involved in stealing vital infrastructure, such as pipes and electrical cables. This threatens the safety of Hospital staff and creates fire hazards owing to tampering with electrical systems and water sources. Additionally, there have been alarming reports of theft involving stock and equipment from closed wards, adding to the challenges faced by healthcare workers.

### Staff safety concerns

These circumstances have raised serious safety concerns for members. Poorly lit hallways at night make it difficult for staff to navigate safely, and with limited security personnel on site, the Hospital is vulnerable to illegal activities. Current security measures are inadequate to address these issues.

### PSA's intervention

In response to these escalating concerns, the PSA is actively engaging with Hospital management to address the security shortcomings. The priority is to safeguard the well-being of all employees and ensure that patients continue to receive care in a secure environment. The PSA will update members on progress with discussions with management and any improvements made to Hospital security. Members' safety remains the PSA's top priority. The PSA is committed to advocating for the necessary changes to protect employees.

Thank you for your dedication and understanding during these difficult times. Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to management without delay.

Reuben Maleka  
GENERAL MANAGER