

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) - LIMPOPO

11-03-2020

Feedback: Poor working conditions - Davhana Clinic

The PSA has received complaints from shop stewards regarding unconducive conditions that employees are exposed to. Despite constant follow up by shop stewards, nothing has been done by the employer. Subsequently, the PSA engaged the Department of Labour, resulting in a visit on 5 March 2020. The inspection started with a document audit wherein the employer could not provide COC and a Risk Assessment Report and undertook to provide these soonest.

It was also discovered that:

- The borehole was not working, and all taps were dry - water tanks were not refilled for up to two weeks.
- Fire extinguishers were not serviced.
- Air conditioners are dysfunctional and open plugs expose danger to employees.
- There is uncut grass between the nurses' homes and the clinic, where snakes and scorpions are regularly encountered.
- Toilets are unhygienic which can be the source of infection, noting that there is no sanitizer.
- There is no warm or cold water in the labour rooms where there is a high need of water.
- Windows are broken, the roof is leaking, and floor tiles are broken.
- Lights in the sluice room are not working.
- Newborn babies are weighed on an adult scale as the baby scale has been out of order for a while.
- There is no linen in the maternity ward.
- There is no working fridge in the nurses' homes and only one stove plate is working for two nurses' home.

Upon the inspection, the Labour Inspector found that the employer has contravened the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and issued Contravention Notice to employer. The PSA appreciates this Notice but would have preferred a prohibition notice as the Union is of the view that the situation is dire. Members will be updated of any developments.

Members across the province are urged to constantly assess their working environment and to report any non-compliance immediately to queen.seema@psa.co.za or Whatsapp to 079 513 9856.

GENERAL MANAGER