

FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE (MTHATHA AREA)

31-03-2020

Update: Departments' compliance with OHSA during COVID-19 lockdown

Department of Correctional Services

The PSA's Provincial Office Mthatha is receiving numerous complaints from *Public Service Act* officials at the Area Commissioner's Office in Mthatha regarding the unavailability of hand sanitisers in the workplace. The issue was raised with the office of the Area Commissioner where it was acknowledged that there was a shortage and indicated that sanitisers will be made available as soon as possible. It was also found that PSA personnel were expected to report for duty without being provided with work permits. It was confirmed by members that they are not provided with permits. The supervisor from the Area Commissioner's Office confirmed that work permits are provided to officers on request. It is unacceptable that the employer requests officials to report for work but does not provide work permits. The PSA is monitoring the situation to ensure the employer does not implement the no work, no pay principle for employees who could not report for work. The PSA will be meeting with the Area Commissioner on 31 March 2020 to resolve work permit issues.

SASSA

Mthatha is surrounded by rural areas and is experienced an influx of grant beneficiaries with social distancing not being adhered to. Members informed the PSA that they are concerned about their health. The employer stated that there is overcrowding that would be managed as time goes on. PSA organisers intervened to ensure that social distancing is adhered to by grant beneficiaries. Employees were provided with hand sanitisers to make sure that every beneficiary is sanitised. The presence of PSA organisers assisted in such a way that the employer had to open another pay point at the nearest hall to alleviate overcrowding. The PSA will monitor the SASSA situation as more grant beneficiaries will be heading to the pay points to receive their grants. The PSA will make ensure that protective gear is provided to employees at all times.

Members are requested to contact PSA Provincial Office in Mthatha for assistance:
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GENERAL MANAGER