

FOR PSA MEMBERS: KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT –
PIETERMARITZBURG AREA

31-03-2020

Update: Covid-19 contravention

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the measures taken by the South African government, including the announcement of a 21-day lockdown has deemed it necessary for the PSA to exercise vigilance in ensuring that the employer adheres to the general occupational health and safety rules contained in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1993*.

It has been brought to the PSA's attention that the Department of Social Development's Head Office at Mayorswalk in Pietermaritzburg has contravened the *OHS Act* with non-compliance with the COVID-19 directive from the DPSA and the Department of Health. Members raised issues such as non-availability of public transport owing to national disaster regulations, relevant employees not provided with work permits, shortages of PPE such as masks and sanitiser and the fact that there is no cleaning staff available to clean toilets.

The PSA escalated these concerns to the acting Head of Department, Mr S Ngubane, and the MEC of Social Development to resolved the issues with respective institutions and the Department is placed on terms to resolve the complaint within two working days, failing which legal steps will be taken against the Department for non-compliance with the *OHS Act*. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER