

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (DCS) - LIMPOPO

14-04-2020

## Feedback: DCS COVID-19 meeting

A meeting took place at Polokwane Correctional Centre on 9 April 2020 between the management and labour, including the PSA. The Area Commissioners from Thohoyandou and Polokwane were given an opportunity to report on the implementation of COVID-19 Regulations.

The Thohoyandou office reported that sanitisers, masks, gloves, and spectacles are provided and that a testing device is used to check employees' temperatures before reporting to centres and offices. The office fully complies with COVID-19 Regulations and the *OHS Act*. The Polokwane, Modimolle and Tzaneen offices failed to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect employees, allegedly owing to a shortage of stock.

One employee at Kutama Senthumule private prison tested positive and is being isolated at home. Fellow employees are, however, yet to be tested. Labour demanded that the employees must be tested to mitigate the risks to their families and colleagues.

The PSA demanded that all Correctional Centres must stop morning parades owing to the risk of spreading the virus. Labour further demanded the stopping of rotation of senior officials between centres. It was resolved that rotation at Thohoyandou will only resume in June. The issue of a special danger allowance was also clarified in that only centre-based officials will be paid this allowance.

Labour raised a concern about being excluded from processes related to dealing with the management of COVID-19 in the DCS. It was resolved that labour will be part of committees in areas up to regional level.

Members are urged to report any non-compliance with COVID-19 Regulations and the *OHS Act* to PSA shop steward, Pastor Masutha on 081 016 4797 or Mike Mkhize on 082 880 2937. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER