

## COVID-19 positive cases at various offices

The PSA was alerted that officials tested positive for COVID-19 at Mokerong, Lulekani, Namakgale, Lebowakgomo Magistrate's Courts and Thohoyandou High Court. Lebowakgomo was worst affected as more than ten officials tested positive. Other offices have experienced single cases each, although contacts are still being followed up and numbers could increase.

Upon the alert, the PSA engaged management where the offices were closed for disinfection, apart from Lulekani where the manager indicated that he is in consultation with the principals.

Members are advised to exercise caution when executing their duties, particularly those dealing with walk-in clients. Implementation of safety protocols, including social distancing, washing/sanitising of hands, and wearing masks remains critical. Movement at work or away from work must be curtailed to mitigate the risk of infection.

The PSA has also observed that the cleaning service, which remains critical for infection control, is compromised at most offices where there is no cleaning at all or it is provided twice a week. Failure to provide a workplace that is safe and without risk is a ground for employees to refuse work once the employer is alerted and failed to correct the situation. The Department is placing the blame on the Department of Public Works for the provision of cleaning services, however, it must note that as the employer, it is obliged to provide a safe workplace.

Shop stewards are urged to be vigilant and enforce compliance with COVID-19 regulations. Shop stewards and members are advised to constantly check non-compliance in their workplace and report such to [queen.seema@psa.co.za](mailto:queen.seema@psa.co.za) and/or [lawrence.muvhango@psa.co.za](mailto:lawrence.muvhango@psa.co.za). Members will be updated on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER