

MEDIA RELEASE COVID-19: PSA condemns Department of Employment and Labour's reckless conduct in North West

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) condemns the failure by the Department of Employment and Labour in North West to act after an employee at the Unemployment Insurance Fund's (UIF) provincial office tested positive for COVID-19.

Affected employees of the Department were issued with an instruction to stay home under self-quarantine until they were visited by the Department of Health. A week has passed, and most affected employees have not been visited nor even received a phone call from the Department, instead members were ordered to report for duty on 1 April 2020. Even after intervention by the PSA to include all UIF staff at the provincial office as it is evident that most of them had direct contact with the infected employee, there was no action by the Department. The Department's conduct is regarded as reckless and can have catastrophic consequences for the Province and country.

The PSA advised the Department to take precautionary measures by ensuring that all exposed employees are placed under self-quarantine and that the office is deep cleaned to eliminate any risks of infection. Failure by the Department to comply will leave the PSA with no option but to resort to legal remedies on an urgent basis.

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