



MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19 regulations: PSA appalled by Port Elizabeth Magistrate's Court disregard

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is disturbed about the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJCD) non-compliance with COVID-19 regulations for employees at the Magistrate's Office in Port Elizabeth.

The Department, as custodian of constitutional values and human rights, should not make itself guilty of violating the rights of its own employees by subjecting them to dangerous and unsafe working conditions. The Department is responsible for championing justice for all in South Africa and that should include its employees. Employees have reported that they have not been provided with personal protective equipment but are expected to perform their duties. Employees have also not been provided with sanitisers and are expected to wash and re-use disposable gloves. The building, including toilets, has not been cleaned and sanitised. Section 8 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* clearly defines the employer's obligation to provide a safe and healthy working environment for employees and the Department is dismally failing to comply.

Despite the increasing rate of infections in the Eastern Cape, the Department seems to be oblivious of the danger its employees are exposed to. The PSA appeals to the Minister of Department of Justice and Correctional Services to intervene and ensure that employees are protected as set out in COVID-19 regulations and guidelines.

END

