

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**PSA calls on Limpopo DEL to lead by example in the fight against Covid-19**

**DATE** 13 May 2020

**EMBARGO** None

**ENQUIRIES** John Teffo  
0795139856

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA), has learned with shock, that although the Department of Employment and Labour, is responsible for the monitoring and enforcement of safety in the workplace, the same department appears to be falling short with compliance to safety regulations.

The department failed to conduct deep cleaning in all 13 labour centres in Limpopo, which exposes members to the possible infection of the virus. Other offices do not even have cleaners wherein employees are expected to work in the dirty offices, endangering even the members of the public who are receiving services in such places. The DPSA Circular 18/2020 prescribes safety measures to be implemented by all employers during level-4 lockdown restrictions before employees can return to work, as stated in their own COVID-19 Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. The department does not provide and maintain a work environment that is safe and without risk to employees, as per Section 8 of *OHS Act*. It must be noted that no employer can force or expect employees to perform their duties in an unsafe working environment.

The Management of the department must be oblivious of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by risking the lives of the employees, while they are working remotely at the comfort of their houses. The PSA calls upon the Provincial Head of the department to ensure that all labour centres are closed, lest they are deep cleaned, and that cleaners are employed to ensure the promotion of hygiene, which is at the centre of fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The department is not above the law, hence the PSA will not hesitate to consider litigation to protect the rights of the members. The PSA will monitor this situation closely and will ensure appropriate intervention where necessary.

END