

**MEDIA RELEASE
cases**

PSA: Condemns indifferent response from FS Health MEC on COVID-19

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Following reports that 10 employees have tested positive for COVID-19, at Boitumelo Hospital in Kroonstad, the MEC of Health called on labour for an urgent “*Zoom Meeting*” on June 16, 2020. It is the PSA’s view that this meeting was nothing else but a disguise, to project the impression that labour was consulted on control measures, that the department was supposed to have put in place at Boitumelo Hospital.

The PSA sought clarity from the MEC, regarding the screening and testing protocols, which are not in place at the hospital, but the MEC was quick to dismiss the PSA without providing any satisfactory response. The MEC instead addressed labour on the departments plans going forward. This was found to be extremely concerning by the PSA, considering the COVID-19 regulations, that requires all workplaces to conduct risk assessments in the workplace, which should inform plans intended to monitor and control potential infections. The Department of Health was once again found wanting despite warnings from labour in the Provincial Steering Committee, that this lacklustre attitude of ensuring basic compliance on COVID-19 requirements is on its own a hazard, which is putting the lives of employees at risk. The PSA further expressed concern with the failure of the department to implement resolutions taken in the previous meetings, which required the department to ensure proper COVID-19 protocols, at entry points and inside the hospitals.

The meeting resolved that with immediate effect, the COVID-19 steering committee composing of representatives from labour and senior management of Health at Boitumelo Hospital, will monitor the implementation of measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. The PSA would like to continue advising its members to avoid any contact with members of the public, in cases where they are not provided with masks, sanitisers, and temperature scanners.

Public Servants are further requested to report workplaces that are not complying with health safety requirements.

END