

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA outraged by working conditions at Davhana Clinic after wasp attack on employee
DATE	27 March 2020
EMBARGO	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) holds the Department of Health in Limpopo accountable after an employee at Davhana Clinic was hospitalised after being stung by a wasp on 25 March 2020.

The PSA and an Inspector from the Department of Labour earlier in March 2020 during a visit to Davhana Clinic witnessed the shocking conditions that employees and patients are exposed to. There is a huge bushy area between the nurse's homes and the clinic where snakes and scorpions are regularly encountered by employees. The PSA demanded that the area be cleaned but the Clinic indicated that the Groundsman responsible for this was chased away by the community owing to suspected corruption in the recruitment process as they claimed that management at the department are bringing own people whilst their children are unemployed. Despite this, there was an undertaking that the grass would be cut, which was not adhered to. This delay resulted in the wasp attack on an employee. This incident could have been prevented had the employer heeded the PSA's call to comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)* to create a safe, healthy and conducive work environment.

Other issues identified by the PSA include a non-functioning borehole that led to dry taps, fire extinguishers not serviced, poor ventilation owing to dysfunctional air conditioners, no sanitisers, unhygienic toilets, broken windows, a leaking roof and broken floor tiles. The employer also failed to provide a fridge at the nurses' home.

According to the report by the Department of Labour, the employer has contravened the *OHSA* and was issued with a Contravention Notice. The PSA believes that a Prohibition Notice also needs to be issued and maintains that Davhana Clinic must be closed until the Department has addressed all the concerns. It is unthinkable that a Clinic that renders 24-hour services, including maternity services, can be without water especially under current circumstances.

The PSA's call on the MEC to intervene failed and, to date, there has not been a visit to the Clinic by the Head Office. The PSA will now engage the Office of the Premier as the MEC's failure to respond reflects a gross disrespect for the *OHSA* and the well-being of employees.

END

