

Positive COVID-19 case: ORTIA

It came to the PSA's attention that a positive case of COVID-19 was confirmed on 18 June 2020 at the OR Tambo International Airport's (ORTIA) Immigration Services section. Management decided to close only the office of the Manager. The entire Immigration team was expected to continue to report for duty despite the entire premises not being disinfected and deep cleaned.

The employer failed to implement the appropriate health and safety measures in terms of COVID-19 regulations and occupational health and safety protocols. The situation created anxiety amongst the Immigration officials who have a strong belief that the working environment at the Airport is hazardous and dangerous for their health and safety.

The PSA wrote to the Director-General and the Compliance Officer on 22 June 2020 and again on 25 June 2020 to ensure that appropriate measures be implemented as a matter of urgency to prevent further infections. The PSA highlighted that the employees are highly exposed to the virus. The PSA urged the employer to decontaminate the premises and test all employees suspected to have been in contact with the employee who tested positive. The employer was further requested to issue a communicate to employees to give clear directive. The employer committed to attend to the matter urgently and provide feedback to the PSA.

The PSA will not hesitate to take further steps in terms of the COVID-19 regulations should the employer fail to address the concerns raised. Members are advised to report any dissatisfaction in this regard to the PSA through the shop stewards. The PSA will continue to monitor developments and will update members.

GENERAL MANAGER