

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS - MPUMALANGA

25-03-2020

Update: COVID-19

The Minister of Home Affairs recently shut down 35 Ports of Entry as a result of the current state of disaster. The outbreak of COVID-19 resulted in the President putting critical measures in place to be complied with by all national and provincial departments. The Department of Home Affairs has front-line services where employees come in direct contact with the public in the execution of their duties. It is therefore critical that the employer obliges to the rules and regulations as contained in legislation and compliance with the call from the President.

The Department of Home Affairs is, however, seemingly lacking behind in ensuring compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and ensuring the safety of its employees related to COVID-19 infections. The PSA's Provincial Office in Nelspruit has been receiving complaints from members, detailing how they are put at risk by the Department.

- The Lebombo Port of Entry, although provided with protective gear, reported that there is no screening device to detect any form of infections of travelers.
- The Middleburg Office had just recently purchased hand sanitisers as a result of an engagement with the PSA.
- The Oshoek Office has complained about being provided only with gloves that are not user-friendly as employees cannot even write effectively when wearing the gloves.

The PSA has written a letter to the Department's Provincial Manager, with a comprehensive memorandum detailing ALL that is required to be in place to ensure the safety of employees during this situation. Should the PSA not receive feedback by 25 March 2020, a letter will be written to the Minister to request urgent intervention of precautionary measures.

GENERAL MANAGER