

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MTHATHA)

14-05-2020

Non-Compliance: COVID-19 Idutywa CHC

The PSA was alerted to frightening concerns of members, who feared for their safety due to the employer's ignorant and irresponsible conduct, at Idutywa CHC towards COVID-19 regulations issued by Department of Employment and Labour as well as the DPSA. The PSA learned that an employee tested positive and testing of staff was done selectively. The employee who tested positive is alleged to have ignored the COVID-19 level-4 Regulations, under Management's watch and walked around without wearing a mask. The PSA contacted Management, who confirmed that staff were tested and those who worked directly with the affected employee were placed in isolation. Management was not aware of the allegations that the affected employee walked around without wearing a mask, resulting in other employees being scared for their safety, while there is a shortage of PPE's. The PSA demanded that the hospital be closed down to avoid further infections, to staff and members of the public and also to allow employees to be in isolation for an approved window period. Management committed to assigning an official from the district to investigate the allegations brought forward by the PSA.

The PSA visited the Idutywa CHC and observed the shortage of PPEs, the influx at Reception of about 12-15 employees, which disregards the 1/3 work principle. Shockingly, no one from the district arrived to investigate and monitor adherence to COVID-19 Regulations by the CHC. The PSA views this as ignorance and inattentiveness from Management, by gambling with the lives of its employees and members of the public.

The PSA demands the immediate closure, quarantine of all employees tested and full a decontamination of the Centre. The PSA will monitor this and continue to be cautious and safeguard the wellbeing of members. Members are encouraged to continue to report any non-compliance by the employer that may occur in the workplace, to the PSA through the shop stewards.

GENERAL MANAGER