

FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE

02-09-2020

## Alert Level-2

Members would recall that the President announced on 16 August 2020, that based on advice from health experts and consultation with provincial and local government, it has been decided to place the entire country on alert level-2. This removed nearly all the restrictions on the resumption of economic activity across most industries.

Sadly, like what was witnessed when the lockdown restrictions were relaxed from level 5 and 4 respectively, departments are rushing to recall all employees without due consideration of risks associated with such action. The PSA condemns this move and calls on departments to ensure proper consultation with labour to ensure that safety protocols are followed. There is a need to consider risk assessment, table the employer readiness plan and prepare the workplace to avoid exposing, employees to the risk of contracting COVID-19.

PSA shop stewards that are serving in COVID-19 committees, are urged to table this issue as matter of urgency, to avoid our members being thrown in a lion's den hoping that they will not become ill or worse succumb to the virus. The relaxation of alert levels doesn't take away the danger associated with the COVID-19, noting that most buildings in the Eastern Cape don't have proper ventilation and poor ablution block infrastructure, with inadequate basins for washing of hands. Furthermore, the congestion at entry points in the morning and afternoon will also increase the chance of infections, as the observation of social distancing will be compromised. The screening of employees and temperature scanning must continue. Non-compliance with COVID-19 regulations, OHS and health protocols remains non-negotiable and must be reported to PSA Provincial Offices, in instances where the employer is resolute in ignoring regulation and endangering the lives of the employees.

Members will be kept updated.

GENERAL MANAGER