

INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

24-08-2020

Poor Working Conditions in Eastern Cape schools

The PSA in the Eastern Cape has embarked on a fight against the poor working conditions for our members. Members approached the PSA Mthatha Office and submitted the following complaints:

- Poor working conditions and promises that are not fulfilled by the Department of Education in Eastern Cape.
- There is a shortage of educators and clerks in schools since many educators with comorbidities are not working, and this causes a heavy workload to those that are working.
- The Department promised that they will employ educators to assist in schools but to date that promise is yet to be fulfilled.
- The lack of access to clean drinkable water and functional toilets renders the workplace unhealthy and unsafe as water is the basic requirement of infection control and enabler of good hygiene practice amid the covid-19 pandemic.
- The Department promised schools with tanks and toilets, but employees are facing a serious challenge of lacking these facilities such as toilets and tanks.

The PSA registered the above complaints and is in the process of writing to the Department seeking their plans to mitigate the unbearable working conditions that members are faced with. On the issue relating to lack of access to clean water and insufficient toilets and water tanks, the Office is engaging the Department of Employment and Labour to conduct an inspection and intervene soonest as the Department had failed to provide a safe workplace without risk as required by the *OHS Act*.

PSA is worried about the running smooth of these schools as next week learners will come in numbers, having no educators, no water and unable to relieve themselves.

PSA is appealing to members to report these cases for immediate intervention to samkelo.mzuku@psa.co.za, zoleka.ngebe@psa.co.za, kenneth.gikani@psa.co.za and gilbert.seakamela@psa.co.za

Members will be kept informed of the developments,

GENERAL MANAGER