

FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRARIAN REFORM (MTHATHA AREA)

08-06-2020

## COVID-19 Regulations: Level 3 Lockdown Restrictions

Albeit the relaxation of lockdown to level 3, departments are still obliged to comply with safety regulations. DPSA Circular 18/2020 and the Department of Employment and Labour COVID-19 OHS in Workplaces Directive remains valid until communicated otherwise. Employers must still comply with safety regulations before workers can return to work.

Members alerted the PSA that the Maluti Office was not decontaminated and yet members were recalled to work. Subsequently the PSA engaged the employer who confirmed that cleaning was not done but plans to decontaminate are procured. The PSA demanded that whilst they await the assistance of a service provider to assist with the decontamination, members be allowed to work remotely until further notice. The PSA's demand was acceded to and members could work remotely until further notice to allow the process of deep cleaning to finalise.

Members are advised to ensure that there is full compliance with safety regulations when returning to work for alert level 3. The employees must be screened, provided with the PPE including, washable cloth masks, sanitisers, and observation of social distancing. Shop stewards who are serving in the COVID-19 Committees are urged to ensure that members are not exposed to danger but work in a safe workplace that is without risk as per Section 8 of OHSA.

The PSA applauds its members for defending their rights and not allowing the employer to bully them into succumbing to the pressure to work in an unsafe working environment.

The PSA always maintain that the safety of employees is non-negotiable. The PSA Provincial Office in Mthatha will further engage the employer to ensure the functionality of the OHS Committee and compliance with the Safety Directives, as the employer has legal obligation to provide workplaces that are safe and without risk to employees as per Section 8 of OHSA.

PSA encourages members to report employer's non-compliance of COVID-19 regulations to [gilbert.seakamela@psa.co.za](mailto:gilbert.seakamela@psa.co.za) or call 047 5012500

GENERAL MANAGER