

Closure of the PRD Building for compliance with COVID-19 Regulations

Members would recall that the PSA has been at the forefront of the battle of compliance with Section 8 of the *OHS Act*, which places legal burden on the employers to provide a safe workplace that is without risk to the employees. The COVID-19 pandemic has fuelled the stance of the PSA, to ensure that members are protected from the spread of the virus. The compliance with Safety Regulations is non-negotiable hence the PSA applauds the landlord of PRD Buildings response to the call for the safety of employees and temporary closure of the building with effect from 23 May, to ensure compliance with safety regulations.

The building will be closed until further notice. The move was due to the SAPS employees testing positive for COVID-19; hence the building will be subjected to full decontamination during weekend. All Offices, passages, toilets, storerooms, furniture, IT equipment and lifts will be decontaminated.

The said building houses the Department of Home Affairs; SITA; SAPS; Department of Public Works; Department of Water and Sanitation and SATS SA. The PSA calls upon these affected entities to ensure that workers are screened to ascertain if there was contact with those who tested positive. Furthermore, employees should be provided with resources and be allowed to work at home and not be threatened to take leave as the same is beyond their control.

The PSA further appreciates that arrangements are underway for testing of all SAPS employees. As the members were using the same ablution blocks, lifts, and entrance, it is recommended that employees in other entities become extra careful and observe all signs of COVID-19 and notify their employers to ensure proper intervention. The PSA will monitor the situation and will advise members accordingly.

Members are further encouraged to report non-compliance of the regulations to Zoleka.ngebe@psa.co.za or call (047) 501 2500

GENERAL MANAGER