

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

14-04-2020

Management of COVID-19

The Department established the COVID-19 Disaster Intervention Scheme in favour of smallholder and communal applicants, which necessitates employees to render services during the lockdown period.

Circular 30 of 2020 provided the procedure and qualifying criteria for applicants. According to the Circular, there will be a need for officials to receive applications from the public at District Provincial level. Relevant managers of these offices must ensure that there are officials receiving applications and ensure that necessary personal protective equipment is made available to these employees to avoid the spread of the virus and exposure of officials to the risk of infection.

The PSA engaged the employer and demanded compliance with COVID-19 Regulations by supplying personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitisers, hand soaps in toilets and disinfectants. Further, the employer should maintain a safe distance during meetings, washing of hands regularly as well as complying with section 8 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The employer indicated that the delivery of PPE was expected in the province on 13 April 2020.

Members who will be reporting for duty during the lockdown are advised to ensure that the required minimum safety measures are implemented. Members must note that it is illegal for the employer to force the employees to work in unsafe, unhealthy and dangerous workplaces and members must not endanger their lives and that of their families by working without PPE. The PSA will continue to monitor the situation. Members can contact their shop stewards or alternatively send a Whatsapp to 076 983 9852 for further assistance. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER