

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

01-06-2020

Poor working conditions: Polokwane Cluster Circuits

The PSA has received complaints from frustrated and concerned members regarding uncondusive conditions that employees are exposed to. The abovementioned building accommodates five circuits, namely, Bahlaloga, Koloti, Maune, Maraba, and Pietersburg. There are however problems of dysfunctional and inadequate toilets for employees working in the building, some with non-working basins. Both men and women are sharing a toilet and employees are also sharing offices, which does not permit social distancing. The COVID-19 pandemic calls for the practice of hygiene including washing of hands, thus the number of toilets and basins should be adequate in terms of the number of people occupying the building. The observation of social distancing is non-negotiable.

The Department is failing to provide and maintain a safe and healthy workplace, as per section 8 of the *OHS Act*, which places the burden and legal obligation on the employer to prevent conditions that expose employees to the danger of being infected by the virus. The PSA is engaging the employer to ensure that the employer complies with *OHS Act* to ensure the protection of the members, as the safety of members is non-negotiable and must always be protected. Furthermore, should the matter not be speedily addressed, the PSA will approach the Department of Employment and Labour as custodian of employee safety to conduct inspection at the department.

Members are urged to constantly assess their working environment and to report any non-compliance immediately to lucky.kganyago@psa.co.za.

Members will be kept abreast of further developments.

GENERAL MANAGER