

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

06-08-2020

Victory for PSA members

Members would recall that the PSA was alerted by frustrated members regarding poor conditions of employment, at the Limpopo Department of Education's Mogodumo District Office, in Lebowakgomo. The office, which houses three circuit offices, namely Mogodumo, Nokotlou, and Mphahlele, did not have water or electricity. Employees did not have access to phones, forcing them to use their private phones when engaging with the Provincial Office. The dilapidated building had a damaged roof. Toilets were locked and not usable owing to a lack of water, forcing employees to use buckets in their offices. Employees were also subjected to unfavorable weather conditions owing to a lack of air conditioners or heaters. It was established that the situation has been the same for the more than two years.

Subsequently, the PSA intervened and referred the matter to South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and Department of Employment and Labour for intervention. Whilst the intervention of the said entities was awaited, the PSA involved the media who subsequently visited the area and the same was broadcast on TV news and other media channels, which forced the employer to react. SAHRC reverted to the PSA to indicate that on *prima facie* evidence, the matter falls within their scope and will investigate further.

The PSA is happy to report that water and electricity has been restored hence our members have access to clean running and drinkable water, functional toilets and no longer carry buckets every time they had to respond to call of nature. They no longer bring water bottle and have access to electricity. Although all issues have not been resolved, it is work in progress and the PSA will continue to fight for the dignity of members to ensure access to safe, healthy, and conducive workplace in-line with the *OHS*. The fight for health and safety of the members is non-negotiable. Furthermore, the employer is obliged to provide the employees with working tools to ensure optimum work performance.

Members will be kept updated for further developments.

GENERAL MANAGER