

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

09-10-2020

## Poor working conditions at Mankweng Circuit Cluster.

The PSA was alerted of poor working conditions at Mankweng Circuit Cluster which houses three Circuits, namely, Mamabolo, Mankweng & Lebopo. Subsequently, the PSA set up a meeting with the employer on the 8th of October 2020 which was unfortunately postponed due to unavailability of the two circuit managers.

The PSA however took the opportunity to engage with local shop stewards and conduct inspections of the offices wherein the following was found:

- there is a need for replacement of old plumbing pipes which causes constant blockage of the sewage system and affect the functionality of the toilets;
- poor and inadequate lighting around the building;
- the roof is leaking, especially in the filing room where educators' files are kept;
- inadequate offices thus making observation of social distancing difficult;
- naked and protruding electrical wires which poses a risk to employees; and
- no proof of compliance certificate for electrical installation.

The PSA was also made aware that the District Infrastructure Unit and OHS declared the building unfit for habitation as far back as 2016 and recommended immediate evacuation which was approved by the former HoD. The building was deemed high risk for officials. Sadly, the Department did not do anything for all those years despite being aware of the risks associated with the continued usage of the building.

It is thus clear that the meeting with the three Circuit Managers would not assist hence the PSA would also escalate the matter to the HoD and Department of Employment and Labour as we believe that the building must be closed. The Department have a duty to provide a workplace that is safe and without risk to employees in compliance with *OHSA*.

The PSA urges all members and Shopstewards to constantly assess their working environment and to report any non-compliance immediately to the PSA Provincial Office at [queen.seema@psa.co.za](mailto:queen.seema@psa.co.za) or [lucky.kganyago@psa.co.za](mailto:lucky.kganyago@psa.co.za).

Members will be kept updated.

GENERAL MANAGER