

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

08-06-2020

## Compliance: Safety standards Thohoyandou High Court

The PSA was alerted by frustrated members that the High Court, which was not complying with the safety regulations, exposing them to COVID19. Members would recall that the employers had to implement safety measures such as conducting risk assessments, deep cleaning of workplaces, screening of employees, provision of the PEP, maintenance of minimum number of employees in workplace to comply with social distancing, as well as consider remote work for employees from 60 years of age and those with underlying medical conditions, which makes them susceptible to infection.

Upon receipt of these complaints, the PSA engaged the employer and when the matter could not be resolved, the PSA engaged the Department of Employment and Labour, to conduct an inspection. The labour inspector found that the employer was not complying with safety measures and issued Contravention and Prohibition Notices. Subsequently, the whole building was disinfected, adequate and proper PPE provided, temperature monitored daily on entrance, 1,5 meters space for social distancing observed. Over-and-above the non-compliance with the safety regulations, the labour inspector found that some parts of the building had major cracks and issued three prohibition notices, for cracks and a dark passage, where people may be injured should the passage be used. The other prohibition notice was for the crack by the window which also needed to be attended to. Consequently, the Department of Public Works is in the process of assessing the building with the engineer to ensure safety of the building.

Although the PSA is happy with this victory, they will continue to monitor progress after the assessment, so that we can be sure that the building is safe for the sake of our members including members of the public.

The PSA will do everything for members to work in a safe and healthy environment wherein their rights will be protected.

GENERAL MANAGER