

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR

10-09-2020

COVID-19 Positive Case

The PSA was alerted that employees tested positive for COVID-19 where it is alleged that the employer was trying to hide hence no *communiqué* was issued to this effect. The secrecy around the infections provides fertile ground for non-compliance with safety regulations and leaves employees panicking and exposed to danger of infection. Sadly, the employer has failed to establish a COVID-19 Committee despite being responsible for the enforcement of the safety in the workplace. The failure of the department to provide exemplary leadership makes a mockery of the fight against the virus.

Both employees are based at Provincial Office, 42A Schoeman Street, Polokwane which was neither closed nor disinfected, after the employer became aware of the infections, which is concerning to the PSA. It is alleged that the employer is contemplating closing one floor for disinfection despite the employees using one entrance and lift while moving between floors in the scope of their work hence the same doesn't make sense.

The PSA will engage the employer to ensure that the employer implements adequate safety measures to contain the spread of the virus. The employer is better positioned to understand the provisions of *OHS Act*, which dictates that the employer must provide a workplace that is safe and without risk to the employees. It is not only reckless and dangerous, but it is illegal to expect employees to work in a contaminated area.

Members are advised to be extra careful when executing their duties and where they feel that their safety is compromised, they have the right to refuse to work in unsafe working environment.

GENERAL MANAGER