

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT(DSD)

07-05-2020

## COVID-19 Regulations - Head Office

Members will recall that subsequent to the relaxation of lockdown restrictions to level 4, the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) and Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) issued COVID-19 Occupational Health and Safety regulations and Circular 18/2020 respectively. The PSA thereafter engaged the department regarding the state of readiness for the recalling of additional employees commensurate with level-4. Although the planned meeting could not materialise, the department has assured the PSA that no employees will be recalled before the employer can ensure compliance with safety regulations.

The PSA was however, alerted by members that there are employees that have been recalled although they do not have any work to do and are just sitting in their offices. Further, the sanitising of the offices has apparently happened at the offices for the MEC and HOD, while other floors have not been cleaned.

Members raised concerns about blocked toilets that are not receiving attention, cleanliness of the offices and lack of sanitisers in the strategic areas as the same is only at the reception area. Social distance is allegedly not observed. The work environment that does not promote personal hygiene is contrary to Guidelines issued by DEL dealing with COVID-19 at workplaces.

The Department is failing to provide and maintain a safe and healthy workplace as per section 8 of OHSWA, which places the burden and legal obligations on the employer to prevent such conditions that expose employees to the danger of being infected by the virus.

The PSA will engage the employer to ensure that the employer complies with Safety Regulations and reconsider their decision to have idling employees in the offices if it is not necessary for them to be at work. The department must understand that some of those employees might be using public transport which increase their risk for infection.

Members from other districts are advised to report non-compliance to the PSA at 076 983 9852 or [patricia.matlhadi@psa.co.za](mailto:patricia.matlhadi@psa.co.za).

Members will be kept updated.

GENERAL MANAGER