

Feedback: Capricorn District meeting

The employer issued Circular 10 of 2020, which provided information on guidelines during the lockdown period, including care and support services to older persons, persons with disabilities, children in need of care, victims of crime and violence in facilities and provision of psychosocial services to individuals and families affected and infected by COVID-19. Subsequently, the Department made staffing arrangements to ensure provision of services. The employer met with labour on 14 April 2020 to assess compliance with the Circular, COVID-19 Regulations and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Lack of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Upon analysis of the provision of PPE in Capricorn District, it became clear that the employer is failing to provide adequate equipment to employees and ran out of stock of PPE in places such as Sekutupu Old Age Home. Although the employer reported that stock will be received soon and labour will be informed, no such report was received. Members are therefore advised not to expose themselves to risk by working without PPE. The lack of PPE is attributed to employer's poor planning and uncaring attitude towards employees. The PSA will continue engaging the employer to ensure compliance.

Training: COVID-19

Although Social Workers are expected to provide psychosocial support services, the employer has unfortunately failed to provide them with relevant training, exposing them to contracting the virus. Upon engagement with management, it was resolved that employees will be trained before the end of the week.

Communication

The employer provided employees with data and airtime to use during the lockdown when they are providing services.

Members from other districts are advised to report non-compliance to the PSA at 072 325 6137 or 076 983 9852. Members will be updated on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER