

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

26-11-2020

## Non-compliance with *Occupational Health and Safety Act*

The PSA was alerted of a water shortage problem that adversely affects employees at the Department. The west wing of the building did not have running water from 23 November 2020 thus creating a problem with flushing of toilets and drinking water. Although the northern wing had water, the lack of water on the other side of the building caused employees to share the only six toilets available on the other side. It is not practical for employees as they had to walk a distance to reach the facility. It must be noted that these two buildings together have some 400 employees who are expected to share six toilets.

In terms of National Environmental Health Norms and Standards, there must be and adequate supply of potable water on the premises for all uses, inclusive of personal hygiene. Potable running water must continually be available on the premises. Where water is not available, water storage containers must be used wherein the non-potable water containers must be marked clearly with signs indicating that the water is unsafe and must not be used for drinking. The employer is thus expected to ensure that where running water is unavailable, drinking water must be adequately stored and protected against contamination. Water service points must be provided on the premises, for various uses on the premises. If temporary water storage tanks must be provided for drinking water, the water must be from an approved source.

The PSA will engage with the employer to ensure that the matter receives the necessary and urgent attention as this arrangement has the potential to undermine the dignity of members and violates their rights.

The battle for a safe and conducive working environment will be pursued at all costs and members are urged to contact Mike Mkhize on 082 880 2937 for further developments.

GENERAL MANAGER