

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

04-12-2020

## Poor working conditions: Tshilidzini Hospital

Members will recall that the PSA declared war against old and dilapidated buildings and has not hesitated to request the intervention of the Department of Employment and Labour, where necessary. The PSA visited Tshilidzini Hospital after a reported incident of a collapsed section of the building following heavy rain in the area. A passage that leads to the hospital main kitchen and main wards collapsed after a huge tree fell on top of this section. It is reported that fortunately there are no casualties following the incident. The tree and the fallen building blocked the path to the kitchen and to the main wards, but an alternative route has been made.

Upon engagement with the employer, it was established that there is a need for major renovation at the Hospital as buildings are old and dilapidated. However, Vhembe district hospitals have been adopted by the National Department of Health as a pilot project for the NHI. Despite a number of submissions to the provincial office, the response was that as the Province, it is not allowed to undertake any renovations or construction of new buildings as this is now the responsibility of the National Department. It has been noted that the National Department has plans and budget for this project and undertook to commence with it soonest. In the meantime, the hospital management has reported the matter to the Provincial Department and is waiting for a directive.

The PSA will engage the Minister of Health through the national office as there is urgent need to attend to this matter. Employees could have been injured or lost their lives owing to this incident and the matter requires urgent attention. It is also important for the Department to conduct a risk assessment, particularly where there are huge trees around buildings that have the potential to fall on these already 'old' roofs.

GENERAL MANAGER