

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO HEALTH

23-12-2020

Poor working conditions at WF Knobel Hospital

As a result of the PSA's continued pressure on employers in Limpopo to improve poor working conditions at health facilities, the Public Protector visited the hospital on 1 September 2020 to conduct full inspection of the infrastructure and to assess the conditions of employment. She also checked the suitability and adequacy of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff.

Finally, the report was recently issued which revealed the following:

- Covid Ward doesn't have resuscitation machines, ventilators, ablution blocks or bathing facilities while waste is collected only on Thursdays;
- Insufficient laundry equipment and trolleys, X-ray machines and dental equipment;
- Poor maintenance of electrical appliances and plumbing installations;
- The hospital environment, including wards, is not clean;
- There are water leaks visible everywhere;
- No fire extinguishers or exit signs indications to direct building occupants in case of a fire emergency;
- There is shortage of staff that cuts across all sections of the hospital;
- The X-ray room is falling apart, and a new structure is urgently needed;
- No adequate furniture, ablution blocks, change rooms, reception or waiting area in the X-ray room;
- No baby warmers and ventilators for babies in the maternity ward.
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Although the report did not delve into the allegation of mismanagement, abuse of power and appointment of the CEO without the required qualifications, it has however pointed at the fact that there is a need to uplift the staff morale, better liaison between staff and management and to improve labour relations.

Subsequently, the PSA referred the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour to conduct the inspection as compliance with OHSA remains obligatory to all employers. The date of inspection is awaited. The PSA will further write a letter to demand that the HOD conduct a risk assessment of the Hospital.

Shop stewards are urged to constantly assess the working environment and to report any non-compliance immediately to the PSA Provincial Office and send email to queen.seema@psa.co.za.

GENERAL MANAGER

