

# INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (DAFF)

25-03-2020

## Update: DAFF Numbi Gate

The DAFF has once again not complied with the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. Section 8(1) of the *Act* stipulates that an employer shall provide and maintain a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of its employees. After receiving calls from members at DAFF Numbi Gate indicating that they were given warnings for not patrolling, the PSA had a meeting with members and the following was established:

- Members are still using bicycles as means of transportation when patrolling and/or doing their work, which it is unsafe and they must carry all tools on the bicycle;
- Members have not been provided with uniforms and as a result they are not easily identified and they don't have safety clothes, whilst they are expected to wear safety clothes, especially when spraying chemicals, but they are required to perform those duties without protection;
- Members have no modern equipment like grass-cutting machines and are still using machetes\blades to cut grass;
- Members can't access their offices since they don't have access cards to Numbi Gate;
- At times they run the risk of not having having water or having toilet paper; and
- Their first-aid kit has expired, and no one is assigned to assist with the first-aid kit.

A formal complaint letter has been written to the Director: Human Resources and the PSA is awaiting a response by end of business today. Should the PSA not receive any feedback, a complaint will be cascaded to the Department of Labour for investigation. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER