

FOR PSA MEMBERS: NORTH WEST

13-05-2020

## COVID-19: Compliance with Level-4 Regulations

The PSA in North West has received various calls from members in the Department of Agriculture, who fear for their safety when returning to work under level 4 as announced by the President with effect from 1 May 2020.

The PSA has requested the Department to follow precautions as prescribed in Circular 18 of 2020 issued by Department of Public Service and Administration and Covid-19 OHS in Workplaces Directive issued by the Department of Employment and Labour to be complied with before workers could return to work.

The Directives demands that prior to employees returning to work, the employer must make certain that they health and safety requirements that requires that the building be disinfected/fumigated, employees be provided with Personal Protective Equipment which includes sanitizers, gloves and face masks. Only 1/3 of employees must be at work and sitting arrangements be made to ensure social distancing. Screening devices must be available and Occupational Health and Safety Representatives must be trained to ensure that employees are screened daily on the use of the screening devices or local health authorities should be approached for assistance.

The PSA is aware that most departments in North West do not comply with the regulations as set out in the two Directives. The PSA wrote a letter to the Head of Department (HOD), requesting his intervention to compel departments in the Province to adhere to the regulations in compliance with the rules of lockdown level 4. Failure to ensure compliance with safety regulations exposes the members to possible infection of the Covid-19 and are contrary to the *Occupationa Health and Safety Act*.

The PSA received a prompt response from the HOD ensuring that no employee will return to work before all requirements in terms of the *OHS*A are adhered to.

GENERAL MANAGER