

FOR PSA MEMBERS: NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

17-07-2020

COVID-19 update: Department of Agriculture

The PSA was alerted by its members that the above-mentioned department, is not complying with DPSA Circular 7/2020, in that there is no Steering Committee to deal with COVID-19 issues. A *communiqué* was forwarded to the department and the urgency to create a committee was emphasized. The employer failed to put guidelines in place for members to return to a safe working environment. In our letter we stressed the point that members cannot be exposed to an unsafe environment where their lives are in danger. We also reiterate that the employer has a duty to provide a safe working place for employees and therefore cannot expect members to return to work when amongst others, in some offices no cleaning has been done, no ventilation and there is no water in some bathrooms.

A walkthrough inspection was done together with unions and the employer and a report are being forwarded to the Head of Department, subsequently an urgent meeting was called between labour and the employer with the purpose to create a COVID-19 steering committee. The PSA urged the HOD to already put measures in place to clean offices and to communicate to employees even before the committees' first sitting which will be next week. It was agreed that the HOD will communicate to officials no later than Friday 17, after receiving the inspection report on the issue of returning to work.

Members are encouraged to report COVID-19 non-compliance to committee members, Ms K Makabanyane and Mr P Mothibedi or directly to PSA office: Zhulfa.graaff@psa.co.za

GENERAL MANAGER