

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS, NORTH WEST

29-05-2020

Return to work: NW Department of Public Works and Roads Level-3

The above department convened a consultative meeting with labour on 28 May 2020, to finalise preparations for expected return to work at level-3. The department acknowledged the need to open service delivery however, emphasised the safety of employees. All districts will open on 1 June 2020 except Dr Ruth Mompati District to be opened on 8 June 2020. The offices will operate at risk adjusted level-4 regulations, that allow only one-third of the establishment to resume duties and work shifts, which may start at 08:00 to 12:00 and 12:00 to 16:00 depending on the operations. Employees 60 years and older will work remotely.

Offices were decontaminated and deep cleaned, except for Dr Ruth Mompati which will be finalised before 8 June 2020 and if not done the return to work date will be rescheduled. OHS representatives were appointed and 162 people thus far were trained on COVID-19. The department reviewed the OHS Policy and Risk Assessment Plan to be aligned to COVID-19 precautionary guidelines.

The Department has procured and distributed the following protective wear:

- Two thermal thermometers per office;
- Two cloth masks per employee;
- Surgical masks (for employees doing screenings)
- One mounted sanitiser per office
- Hand sanitisers
- Face shields for front-line workers
- Disposable gloves
- Tents and Gazibos for screening in harsh weather
- Marking tapes
- Temporary isolation sites identified
- Hand Soaps

The department works with the Department of Health and Employment and Labour for adherence to COVID-19 measures. The Jericho office has been closed owing to a lack of water, as per the agreement that if an office is experiencing water shortages, it will be closed until water is restored.

Guidelines for alternative speedy resolution of disputes to be agreed upon for speedy resolution of COVID-19 contraventions. The department should adhere to the departmental OHS Policy, Risk

Assessment Plan and *OHS*A in order to manage health and safety issues, which include COVID-19 regulations.

Non-compliance should be reported to PSA Mafikeng Provincial Office at 018 381 9600.

GENERAL MANAGER