

FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

28-05-2020

Update: COVID-19 Containment and Mitigation Plan

A meeting between the Office of the Premier (OTP) and Labour was held to discuss how COVID-19 has been tackled in the Province and the following strategies were rolled out:

State of Readiness

It was reported that all departments elected Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) committees and that training is ongoing. Similarly, the department is focusing on ensuring that buildings are decontaminated, and that departments work together with Premier's Command Council and Provincial Coordinating Committee Core Team to make sure that all COVID-19 Regulations are met.

The employer rolled out a plan to minimize the spread of the virus at workplace. The following are the strategies that the Province intends to apply:

- Mass education. Awareness, screening, target testing, tracing possible cases, quarantine and isolation
- Protecting the vulnerable and provision of psychosocial services
- Sustainable solution in investing on health services
- Saving the provincial economy and securing the future

The employer stated that Human Settlement will supply water and Sanitation as a pillar of strategy, whilst, other Departments will prepare and identify employees who are over 60 and those who have an underlining chronic diseases. The Department of Public Works will be responsible for decontamination of all departmental buildings.

The major setback is the vandalizing of atleast 90 schools, but it was reported that the Department of Education is working around the clock to correct the situation. The approved population for Correctional Centers is 13 141 inmates, but it was reported that the 41 prisons in the Province are overcrowded with a population of 20 389 inmates. The employer has requested the Minister of Justice to release atleast 1 702 prisoners to relieve the pressure.

The employer will constantly provide feedback to labour and other stakeholders of the developments made to combat the current situation in the Eastern Cape. The PSA noted the report and commends the Employer in showing signs of commitment in assisting the situation in the Province.

Members will be kept informed of the developments.

GENERAL MANAGER