

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL
DEVELOPMENT – EASTERN CAPE

05-02-2021

Defiance of *DPSA Circular 1/2021* and unavailability of water at Mount Fletcher Magistrate's Court

It was brought to the PSA's attention that Mount Fletcher Magistrate's Court contravened COVID-19 regulations by failing to provide clean water for employees. This challenge was observed by workers from 1 February 2021 and unfortunately, management did not intervene and treated the situation as though it was business as usual. One of the key requirements for compliance with COVID-19 is ensuring that hands are regularly washed for at least 20 seconds. After the PSA learnt about the non-compliance, an email was forwarded to the head office labour relations office for intervention on 3 February 2021. Two hours after the email was sent, the water was restored.

The same institution defied *DPSA Circular 1/2021* directing that the Accounting Officer should ensure a reduction of the occupancy rate to no more than 50% at any given time for public servants, using shift work and remote working arrangements, amongst others. The insistence on 100% employee attendance is not only reckless but is a disregard of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and undermines the battle against the pandemic. Sadly, management is oblivious of the rising infections and deaths attributed to the virus.

Adherence to *DPSA Circular 1/2021* and COVID-19 safety protocols is not optional and the recklessness of the Court cannot be left unchallenged. Engagement with the Regional Manager is underway to ensure implementation of shift work and remote working arrangements to maintain the maximum 50% occupancy at any given time as per the *DPSA Circular*. Members will be informed of developments.

The PSA encourages members to report matters of concern in their institution(s) to their local shop steward and PSA Office at (047) 501 2500 or email pumla.kwababa@psa.co.za

Members are reminded to remain cautious and obey all COVID-19 safety regulations. The PSA wishes members affected by COVID-19 a speedy recovery.

GENERAL MANAGER