

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

17-09-2021

Victory for PSA members: Limpopo Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

Members will recall that the PSA has been fighting for the safety of members at the Limpopo Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, who were occupying an unsafe building at 96 Schoeman Street in Polokwane. The building at one stage caught fire and this was attributed to poor electrical connectivity and non-maintenance of air conditioners. Constant pressure from the PSA finally forced the employer to move workers to a building at Biccard Street, albeit on temporary basis, as a permanent solution was sought. The move happened after the PSA escalated the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour who inspected the building and subsequently issued a Prohibition Notice.

The PSA had continued to engage the employer to find alternative office accommodation however, the process to finalise the move was delayed due to other challenges. Eventually, members moved to new offices at the Nedbank Building in August 2021 where the PSA participated in a prior inspection before employees could move. Although the building was given thump ups at the time, post occupancy inspection was deemed necessary by the PSA to check the compliance with *OHS*A. Subsequently, the PSA visited the building to conduct inspections on 15 September 2021, during which it was discovered that the safety of employees is not compromised. Three floors have been procured for members which is adequate to allow for social distancing as part of containment measures to protect workers from Covid-19. Safe parking has also been provided. Although few offices are yet to be partitioned, the building is generally safe and hygienic, and the dignity of the members has been restored.

Members are urged not to compromise their lives and work by reporting any non-compliance with *OHS*A to queen.seema@psa.co.za or Whatsapp on 082 880 8957/082 880 8995. The safety of our members remains our priority.

GENERAL MANAGER