

Victory to PSA members

The PSA was alerted by concerned members of the unconducive and unsafe working conditions they are working under where cleaning services were not provided at the Waterberg District offices in Modimolle for three weeks. The failure to ensure cleaning of offices and toilets for such a long time was non-compliance with the *OHS Act*, which directs that the employer is obligated to provide a workplace that is safe and without risk to employees. To expect workers to work in dirty offices while there is a warning of COVID-19 third wave is not only reckless on the side of employer, but also dangerous as employees are exposed to possible infection. The issue of hygiene is at the centre of the containment of the virus and the employer's behaviour was condemned in the strongest terms.

The PSA, being sensitive to the disrespect of workers, acted swiftly. The employer and the Department of Employment and Labour were engaged. Subsequently, the office was closed, and members were advised to stay at home until the offices are cleaned and made habitable. It was also established that the Mookgophong and Lephalele offices were also not cleaned, hence these were also cleaned.

The offices have been cleaned and employees are back at work. The activeness of PSA shop stewards in the workplace in exercising their mandate as per *section 14 of the LRA* in monitoring the employer's compliance and reporting alleged contraventions is highly commended. Members deserve better and must be served without fear or favour. Further, the labour inspectors are commended for their swift response.

Members are advised to regularly check and report OHS non-compliances and other work-related challenges to the PSA Provincial Office to queen.seema@psa.co.za or call 015 295 0500. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER