

Update: Victory for PSA members

Members will recall that three employees tested positive for COVID-19 at Lephalale Labour Centre where the acting Manager dismally failed to comply with COVID-19 protocols. The PSA was shocked that the Manager attributed her failure to implement safety protocols to the unavailability of budget when other offices are closing and disinfecting. The office could not be closed for disinfection and no tracking and tracing were implemented, which exposed employees to possible infection.

The PSA addressed a letter to the Provincial Head and when a response was not forthcoming, the matter was escalated to the Office of the Director-General. Subsequently, the PSA was informed that one employee was hospitalised while two remain isolated and recovering from home. Upon the intervention of the PSA, the office was closed to facilitate disinfection, although very disappointing because the DEL is the custodian of health and safety in the workplace. The DEL must lead by example and did not need to be pressured to comply with health and safety standards.

The non-existence of Steering Committees at Labour Centres and the Provincial Office is, however, still a challenge and the employer is advised to ensure that Steering Committees are established, which will assist in ensuring proper management of the virus. Such committees must include labour representatives. The PSA wishes the infected employees a speedy recovery.

Members are urged to constantly wear masks, sanitise or wash hands with soap, observe social distance, limit movements whilst on duty or away from work and avoid social gatherings and congested places. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER