

Update: Inspection at FH Odendaal Hospital

Members are aware that a fire broke out at FH Odendaal Hospital in Modimolle on 4 May 2021, claiming the lives of two patients. The PSA visited the institution on the same day and were briefed by management. The PSA also wrote to the Department of Employment and Labour for intervention and the Department responded that the matter was already under investigation. The PSA joined the Department in the investigation on 7 May 2021 and on 10 and 11 May 2021 for inspection. Although the burned area was still barricaded and under police authority, inspectors opted to conduct a general inspection to assess the safety of the Hospital. The inspection findings were as follows:

- Hazardous waste on floors and not in bins
- Inadequate/no lights in most departments, including toilets
- Fire extinguishers not mounted, and others not serviced
- Cracked walls/peeling floor tiles
- Leaking toilets and roofs
- Dysfunctional air conditioners
- Broken shelves and hanging cables
- Inadequate office space and thus failure to observe social distancing
- No running water in offices
- Inadequate pedal bins and old office furniture
- Dirty office walls with no required painting
- Drain smells in offices
- Long grass, neglected yard, particularly around old generator and diesel tank
- No signage in the oxygen bank, cylinders stored in the sun and rusted
- No soap and paper towels in consulting rooms
- Poor ventilation in consulting rooms and small waiting area, forcing patients to wait outside
- No PPE for staff to enter walk-in fridge
- Huge pile of unclaimed dirty patient clothes posing health hazard
- Windows dirty with spider webs
- Employees not trained on the use of fire extinguishers
- Used syringe outside storage and mortuary trolleys broken
- Broken door handles and no staff lockers

The PSA will monitor the implementation of the improvement plan to ensure the safety of employees. Members will be updated on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER