

Dismissal of PSA shop stewards: WF Knobel Hospital

Members will recall that shop stewards were suspended and subsequently subjected to a disciplinary process during which they were ultimately found guilty and dismissed for demanding compliance with COVID-19 regulations. The PSA appealed the sanctions but the appeal was dismissed and their employment was terminated effectively from 14 April 2021.

The PSA has stated on several occasions that the suspension and disciplinary processes was a strategy by the employer to intimidate and silence labour's voice. It must be noted that the transgression by the PSA shop stewards was to demand that the WF Knobel be disinfected upon discovery of a COVID-19 positive test as was done at Van Velden and Polokwane Hospitals. The PSA Chairperson requested the employer to provide written confirmation that the Department is no longer disinfecting hospitals and it refused. Subsequently, the employee brought it to the attention of the employer that they cannot work in an unsafe and unhealthy work environment as per COVID-19 protocols.

The PSA will not allow the silencing of labour's voice in the democratic dispensation and a dispute of unfair dismissal will be declared with the Council as the dismissal of these shop stewards is an act of injustice. Remaining shop stewards are urged to continue their efforts against injustice, abuse of power and deliberate non-compliance with legislative frameworks. The PSA will continue its efforts for the rights and interests of members.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER