

Poor working conditions: Mokopane, Mmapela MPCC Building

The PSA was alerted to poor working conditions at Mmapela MPCC Building in Mokopane where employees had no access to functional toilets, sanitisers were not provided at the main gate with no screening process and no temperatures were taken. Visitors were not registered and no drinking water was available. The PSA visited the Department on 21 June 2021 and confirmed first hand the non-compliance with COVID-19 regulations and unsafe working conditions. The Department is accommodated in a neglected municipality building.

Upon engagement with employees and management, it became clear that employees had no access to drinking water and toilets since March 2021. Their offices are also dirty owing to not being cleaned after the waterpump was damaged. Employees were told to use the toilets at Mmapela Clinic, which is about 1 km from their building. Employees were under the impression that the employer would ensure that the matter received urgent attention.

The lack of screening and sanitisers at the main gate exposes employees to COVID-19 infection whereby tracking and tracing will be practically impossible as the names of visitors remain unknown. Employees are not able to wash their hands with water and soap as there is no water available, despite this being necessary for containment of the virus. Further, some offices are too small wherein four employees are squeezed together without observation of social distancing and are required to consult in the same offices. It was reported that the District Director and District Social Managers are aware of the situation but have not done anything to address the plight of employees.

The PSA has approached the Department of Labour and Employment. A date for inspection is awaited as the health and safety of members remain a priority. Members with workplace challenges are urged to contact the PSA Provincial Chairperson, Nkhensani Maluleke, at Nkhensani.ny@gmail.com, Locan Bonisiwe Sibiyi at Sibiyi.locs@gmail.com or the PSA Provincial Office on (015) 295 0500. Members will be updated on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER