

FOR PSA MEMBERS: NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

22-07-2021

Update: Department of Health - Connie Voster Hospital, Northern Cape

The PSA has learned from members at Connie Vorster Hospital in Hartswater that officials decided to stop working night duties, public holidays and other over time. This decision came about as a result of the non-payment of overtime worked since April 2021 to date. The PSA addressed a letter to the HOD of the Department for intervention as communities need these critical services 24 hours of the day.

In a telephonic conversation with the CEO of the Hospital, it turned out that the Department failed to fill vacant, funded posts. Officials who passed on or who went on pension left vacant posts and a lack of skills to calculate overtime at the Hospital. The District Office also failed to assist the Hospital, resulting in the non-payment of over-time for three months.

The PSA strongly condemns this as it cannot be correct for members to render services and not getting paid. Overtime and night-shift allowances are rights issues and therefore the employer cannot fail to implement collective agreements at every turn. The PSA has requested the Department to immediately action payment of overtime to affected members, failing which will result in the PSA assisting members to exercise their rights.

Members are advised to report for duty and not to revert to work stoppages as such actions may be regarded as an unprotected strike, which may result in disciplinary action being instituted against such members by the employer. It should also be kept in mind that employees of the Hospital are regarded as essential services and are not permitted to strike. Please contact the PSA Provincial Office on (053) 839 1000 for further clarity.

GENERAL MANAGER