

Update: Flooding of SARS offices - Kimberley

The PSA is concerned about hazardous conditions caused by flooding of SARS offices in the city. Rain over the last three days is leaking through the roof into offices and creating a stench. Employees are also subjected to water on the floors. Section 8 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* stipulates the following:

General duties of employers to their employees:

- Every employer shall provide and maintain, as far as is reasonably practicable, a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health and safety of employees.
- Without derogating from the generality of an employer's duties under sub-section (1), the matters to which those duties refer include in particular taking such steps as may be reasonably practicable to eliminate or mitigate any hazard or potential hazard to the safety of employees, before resorting to personal protective equipment; and making arrangements for ensuring, as far as is reasonably practicable, the safety and absence of risks to health in connection with the production, processing, use, handling, storage or transport of articles or substances.

The employer is failing to meet the provisions mentioned above. The PSA therefore calls on the employer to release employees from this office until the problem is attended to and resolved. Members are encouraged to contact the PSA's Russle Bindeman on 082 883 6573, Eugene Louw on 076 289 2849, and Neo Montse on 082 880 8992 should the above conditions continue.

GENERAL MANAGER