

## Update: Non-compliance of certain SASSA offices (Eastern Cape) with COVID-19 and Occupational Health and Safety regulations

The PSA Provincial Office in Gqeberha was alerted by members at certain SASSA offices in the province that is non-compliance with COVID-19 and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations. A special inspection was arranged to visit the offices in Uitenhage and Kirkwood that have been reported as putting the safety of members at risk.

The PSA together with the Provincial Official of SASSA visited the offices in Kirkwood and Uitenhage on 26 July 2021 and 29 July 2021 respectively after the challenges were escalated from members to SASSA in the Provincial Office for intervention. The inspection team found that the Kirkwood office was not conducive in terms of safety standards and is much compromised owing to a lack of ventilation, windows are not opening, all air conditioners are faulty. Basically, the workstation is not compliant and hazardous with only two fire extinguishers that are available for the entire office.

At the Uitenhage office, there is only one entrance or door, which is hazardous taking into consideration that the exit door for emergency is not functional and does not have ventilation which is impacting negatively to members.

The meeting resolved that employer to arrange a meetings with the Landlord to address the issues relating to the building structure.

For the Uitenhage office the employer has been given a responsibility to address the identified challenges and give a report within a two-week period. The PSA will monitor situation and should the employer fail to deliver as undertaken, the matter will be escalated to the Department of Labour for intervention.

It was further agreed that SASSA should make sure that all SASSA offices do have a OHS Compliant Officer for members to have a platform to register complaints from the point of origin.

Members, especially shop stewards, are encouraged to be part of these institutional and District OHS committees, which will assist in addressing members' challenges speedily.

Members will be updated on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER