

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS - BUTTERWORTH**

25-02-2022

Update: Bad Working Conditions

The PSA was alerted to bad working conditions at Department of Home Affairs (DHA) in Butterworth. These include the scarcity of water and insufficient light forcing members to use their cellphones and torches to increase the light, thus damaging their eyes and risking documents signed by members.

The PSA did not hesitate to request a bilateral meeting with the employer which sat on 23 February 2022. The following matters were discussed and resolved as follows:

- **Shortage of water** - It was reported that the DHA Head Office issued a guideline to manage service delivery during water interruption in the workplace, whereby offices can release officials once a report from the water supplier, municipality, or traditional leadership has confirmed a water disruption for more than 5 hours. An arrangement of water tanks is made but because of the abuse of water by staff who use water for domestic purposes, the tanks were closed. The PSA intervened and requested the employer to set standards but not deprive members of their basic right to water. The employer will re-open the tanks and put standards in as far as water consumption is concerned.
- **Insufficient light** - Members complained of little or no light at the workplace which damages their eyesight. Often than not, members use their cellphones and torches to increase the lighting in the building and this puts their work at risk as clients sign documents in the building. Management reported that the lighting problem is caused by the water leaks. The building belongs to the Department of Public Works and is regarded as Heritage Building, thus preventing any renovations. Management reported that they bought a lamp to increase lighting but was damaged by staff. The PSA dismissed the usage of a lamp and demanded the relocation of staff to a safer building. The matter is under discussion with the Provincial Management and progress report will be submitted to the PSA.

Members are urged to continue putting their trust in the PSA as their Union which prioritises the rights and interests of members and email Zandi.nompetshehi@psa.co.za for timeous intervention.

GENERAL MANAGER