

FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

29-07-2022

Office closure: Winnie Madikizela Mandela (Bizana)

Members will recall that the Department of Social Development in Bizana was closed on 31 March 2022 by the service provider owing to the non-extension of the contract between the service provider and the Department. Labour met with management on 25 July 2022 and the following was resolved:

- That the contract has since been extended by the Department of Public Works, but the office is still closed owing to some electric faults that were not attended to at the time the office was still opened.
- The service provider was given seven days to repair the electric fault, to no avail.
- Employees are currently using SASSA and municipality boardrooms for daily operations.
- Departmental vehicles are parked outside Bizana police station where their safety is not guaranteed.

Labour was not satisfied with the report and suggested that members be provided with the tools of trade for remote working whilst the employer is resolving the challenges relating to safety. Labour proposed that the Department makes provision to build its own property and that members be informed of the remote working. The employer did not accede to Labour demands due to budgetary constraints on acquiring its own building but confirmed that most employees are working remotely owing to safety measures not conducive for employees to return to work. It remains unknown as to when they will return to work.

Advertisement of posts

The employer reported that only two posts have been advertised by the district, namely:

- Social Worker Grade 1
- Assistant Director Finance

Labour was shocked with this report as there was no consultation prior to advertisement of these two posts. Labour was of the view that the post of the Manager Corporate Services was the most critical post. Management apologised for the omission and undertook to correct the mistake going forward. The PSA will monitor the situation and members will be informed of developments.

Employees wishing to join the PSA can contact Zandi.nompetsheni@psa.co.za or Kenneth.qikani@psa.co.za.

GENERAL MANAGER