

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GOVERNMENT PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION AGENCY (GPAA) LIMPOPO**

21-01-2022

## Attachment at Thohoyandou office owing to unpaid debt

The PSA was alerted on 19 January 2022 that the Sheriff attached furniture at Thohoyandou offices owing to unpaid debt. The PSA immediately engaged the shop steward and the employer who confirmed that some furniture was attached by the Sheriff. The PSA was very concerned and needed clarity from the employer why an institution such as the GPAA can allow the situation to get out of hand to this extent as it puts the lives of employees at risk. The inability of the GPAA to honour the payment of its debt may develop into a situation where vigilante debt collectors could take law into their own hands. The employer could not divulge more information other than indicating that legal services are handling the matter and for the protection of parties involved.

The employer stressed that services are not interrupted and that members are safe. The PSA decided to investigate further and visited the institution to further assess the situation. The PSA, on arrival, further engaged the employer regarding the situation. It was found that the service was not interrupted, however, the PSA stressed that the employer should put measures in place to prevent such incidents as next time the situation may get out of hand and put the lives of employees at risk. The PSA followed up on the matter and the employer confirmed that legal services handled the matter, and that the furniture has been returned to the employer. The employer was reminded that the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993*, requires the employer to provide and maintain, as far as reasonably practicable, a work environment that is safe and without risk to the health of workers.

Members are urged not to compromise their safety at work by reporting any non-compliance with the OHS Act to [queen.seema@psa.co.za](mailto:queen.seema@psa.co.za) or [lucky.kganyago@psa.co.za](mailto:lucky.kganyago@psa.co.za) or WhatsApp to 082 880 8957 / 082 880 8995.

The safety of members remains a priority for the PSA.

GENERAL MANAGER