

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

22-09-2022

## Update: Non-compliance with *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)* - Matangari Service Centre

The PSA was alerted of poor working conditions at the Department of Agriculture, Matangari Service Centre in Thohoyandou, Vhembe District. The PSA visited the institution on 2 September 2022 and found that the employer is not complying with occupational health and safety (OHS) standards as the working environment was not conducive. It was found that the provision of security is non-existent, the building is dilapidated, floor tiles are damaged, and offices are without lights, posing danger to employees. No fire extinguishers are installed in the building and employees have to carry water with buckets as there is no running water and they have to wait a week for the water tank to be filled. Furthermore, there are no flushing toilets and employees are using a pit toilet.

The PSA engaged the employer on the non-compliance with OHS standards since the PSA maintains that it is the responsibility of the employer to ensure a working environment that is free from health and safety hazards. The PSA had also engaged the Department of Employment and Labour in terms of the *OHSA* to inspect the institution as the PSA views this as contravention of *clause 8* of the *OHSA*, which states that “every employer shall provide and maintain, as far as reasonably practicable, a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of members.” The Labour inspector visited the premises on 20 September 2022 and the outcome of the assessment is awaited. The PSA anticipates that notices will be issued based on the assessment made during the visit, which indicates that the workplace is not in compliance with the *OHSA*.

Shop stewards and members are urged to continuously check compliance with health and safety standards. Where non-compliance is identified, report it to the PSA Provincial Office on (015) 295 0500 or email [queen.seema@psa.co.za](mailto:queen.seema@psa.co.za) or [lucky.kganyago@psa.co.za](mailto:lucky.kganyago@psa.co.za).

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER