

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

07-07-2023

Safety of workers at Witpoort Hospital

The PSA was alerted that a group of people wearing T-shirts of a political party arrived at Witpoort Hospital unannounced, demanding explanations pertaining to procurement processes at Witpoort Hospital in Ga Seleka, Waterberg District. It was reported that the same group visited the Hospital twice and proceeded to the office of the CEO unhindered owing to poor access control. Employees at the Hospital were concerned about the easy access of this group, which threatens their safety. There are ways and forums to deal with community concerns about the running of public institutions and it cannot be correct for individuals to arrive at an institution unannounced in a disorderly manner, which is tantamount to anarchy, interference, and lawlessness. Whilst the PSA recognises the importance of accountability and transparency by all heads of institutions, anarchy and threatening of employees' safety cannot be accepted.

This easy access exposed the lack of security at the Hospital, which prompted the management of the Hospital to speedily commence with a process to erect a security gate at the Hospital. Hospitals have been places of easy access where some employees even lost their lives as criminals easily accessed their workplace. The gist of the visit was apparently to demand that the CEO should consider unqualifying service providers for procurement processes. This is not only unwarranted, but corrupt, and illegal. Public institutions must adhere to procurement prescripts.

The PSA applauds the CEO and Risk Management Team in standing their ground in terms of adhering to prescripts and ensuring the safety and security of employees by acting promptly in procuring a security access gate, which a supplier is currently busy installing following engagements with local shop stewards. It is important that the Hospital also considers increasing the number of security officers at the gate to ensure protection of assets and employees. The PSA will continue to protect and promote members' rights and interests.

Members will be informed of developments.

Employees who wish to join the PSA can contact Lawrence Muvhango (Lawrence.muvhango@psa.co.za / 082 880 8995) or Paulina Moloto (Paulina.moloto@psa.co.za / 082 880 8957).

GENERAL MANAGER