

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRARIAN REFORM (DRDAR)**

20-12-2023

## Poor working conditions at DRDAR offices

The PSA was alerted about poor working conditions and health risks because of the poor state of offices and non-compliance with safety standards at the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) in the Eastern Cape.

A bilateral meeting was held with the Department to discuss the state of the following identified offices: Ncorha, Tsomo, Qama, and Cofimvaba. The Department acknowledged that the offices are in a poor state and committed to do the following:

- Identify suitable office space for Ncorha officials.
- Repair toilets, restore water, replace broken windowpanes, and replace broken locks for Tsomo office.
- Finalise the requisition process for renovation of Qamata office.
- Finalise a report for identified office space for Cofimvaba office.

The Department agreed to have a progress meeting with the PSA on 7 March 2024. The PSA raised concern with the Department not having an occupational health and safety (OHS) committee to promote safety in the workplace environment. The Department responded that the authorities have granted approval to establish the committee and the terms of reference have been provided. The meeting agreed to have an OHS committee in place before the scheduled progress meeting. The PSA will continue to ensure compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, which places a legal obligation on employers to provide a healthy and safe workplace that is without risks to employees.

Members will be informed of developments.

Employees who wish to join the PSA can contact Kenneth Qikani on 082 880 2936 for the Mthatha area or Mxolisi Nyandu on 072 118 3076 for the Gqeberha area.

Reuben Maleka  
GENERAL MANAGER