

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA) - EASTERN CAPE**

02-11-2023

## PSA concerned about health and safety of members at Dimbaza

The PSA's Eastern Cape Office in Gqeberha visited Dimbaza Service Station where the Department of Social Development and SASSA employees work, after an outcry from members seeking assistance. It is disturbing for the PSA that the Head of the Department (HOD) of the Department of Social Development is aware of the poor conditions of the office in Dimbaza, but no efforts are being made to address these. The poor conditions of the building have been raised since November 2022 where members reported that as a result of fumes, their bodies started itching. The District Management responded to the call of members and undertook to take the matter up with the Department of Public Works as custodian of the building. To date, nothing has come from this undertaking.

There is no water and the electricity supplied to the building is placing all employees' health and safety at risk. The HOD was again reminded of these conditions during a bilateral meeting on 25 July 2023. The plea again fell on "deaf ears". Since then, there has been no assistance to employees who are working under trees, when the weather permits, for their safety. During bad weather, they work remotely from home. Whilst this situation is unacceptable, employees are expected to return to the office and perform their duties as if conditions are normal and safe. SASSA officials reported that they are forced to work full hours under these conditions. Promises were made to deliver mobile toilets and water tanks since April 2023, but nothing had happened since.

The PSA thus has no alternative but to request Inspectors from the Department of Employment and Labour to do an inspection of the building. This may result in the building being declared unsafe for occupation and unfortunately disrupting service to the community.

Members are requested to report any other matters of concern directly to Mxolisi Nyandu on [mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za](mailto:mxolisi.nyandu@psa.co.za) / 082 880 8968.

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