

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (GDE) - JOHANNESBURG AREA**

15-02-2023

GDE Johannesburg East Education District employees without permanent offices

The PSA is concerned about the way in which the Gauteng Department of Education is handling the issue affecting members who are placed under Johannesburg East District (Education). These employees were last moved and separated into three groups (Sandown High School, Noord Primary School, and Morningside Teachers Centre). The Department indicated in 2020 that the placements are temporary, but it has been more than two years and members are still working on the temporary placements.

When the PSA visited the workplace last week, members expressed their disappointment with how they are treated by the Department as they feel that the Department does not care about them. They also indicated that they don't have proper working tools such as telephones, which makes it hard to communicate with the schools to which they are providing service. One of the temporary buildings where members are currently situated at Sandown High School was also declared as non-compliant to OHS in 2021 according to the OHS report that was signed by the task team and the DDG Mr R Mmutlana.

The matters that were discovered by the OHS committee are:

- Poor ventilation in the open plan area and odour from ablution facilities.
- The office space is some 610 square meters, which implies that 45 staff members can be accommodated but there are currently more than 50 thus compromising the health of members when considering the new COVID-19 variant.
- Leaking roof.
- Clients visiting the district must wait in the sun/rain owing to the absence of shelter since it is declared as a temporary facility for the district.
- Termites inside the building are damage documents.

Members have complained that after the OHS report was issued, they have not been updated on the way forward or solutions for these issues, which are of serious concern to them.

The PSA, therefore, appeals to the Gauteng Education MEC, Mr Matome Chiloane, and HOD, Mr Edward Mosuwe to provide an urgent solution to the situation of this district.

Members who are facing challenges with OHS non-complying institutions can contact the PSA Provincial Office on (011) 718 5400. Non-PSA members who want to join the Union of Choice can contact Sibusiso Ndzala on 082 880 8964 or sibusiso.ndzala@psa.co.za

GENERAL MANAGER