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FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

05-05-2023

Poor working conditions for employees: PSA takes on Gauteng Health Department

The PSA was shocked to learn that employees at the Department of Health were subjected to hazardous and uncondusive working conditions, thus contravening the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*. The *OHSA* provides that the employer has a legal obligation to provide a workplace that is safe and without risk to employees. The Department had placed security officers in an old, dilapidated building that was donated by a non-profit organisation and is without water and electricity. The employer did not care about the integrity of employees who had no access to toilets. Further, employees had no means of communication with their supervisors although they were scheduled to work night shifts and on holidays.

The PSA visited the workplace where it was confirmed that the working conditions were deplorable and it is inhumane to expect employees to work in such conditions. The PSA could not allow the members to continue working in an environment that compromised their health and safety. The PSA engaged the employer and promptly referred the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) as custodian of workers' safety. The PSA visited the workplace with the DEL and a Labour Inspector on 3 May 2023 who immediately issued a Contravention Notice to the employer. On the same day, the employer issued an instruction that all security officers must report back to their original institutions where they were previously based.

The PSA will not tolerate the trampling of workers' rights by uncaring employers and advises members in Gauteng (Johannesburg area) who are experiencing workplace challenges to alert Mbusi Shibe at Mbusi.shibe@psa.co.za / 082 880 8997 or call the PSA Provincial Office in Johannesburg on (011) 718 5400.

Employees who would like to join the PSA can contact Sibusiso Ndzala (PSA Organising/Marketing Officer) on cell/WhatsApp 082 880 8964 or sibusiso.ndzala@psa.co.za.

GENERAL MANAGER