

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

27-09-2023

Poor working conditions at Bela-Bela Magistrate Court

The PSA was alerted by concerned employees regarding their poor working conditions where the employer did not address the situation despite being aware of such. Subsequently, the PSA visited the court on 22 September 2023 and discovered the following:

- The court is housed in an old, dilapidated, and neglected building with asbestos roofing.
- Only one toilet is in working order for the clients forcing them sometimes to relieve themselves on the floor in front of these toilets as they cannot wait for their turn to get to the working toilet. Males and females are forced to use one toilet which poses a health risk.
- Fire extinguishers are not serviced, they were last serviced in June 2021.
- Air conditioners are not working particularly in the mobile office that is extremely hot with the penetrating sun.
- Leaking roofs with cracked walls.
- Broken windows with most of them are not even opening.
- Rusty and unkept gutters.
- Peeling paint and dirty mats.

The PSA was made aware that the district is aware of these challenges and visited the courts on numerous occasions. The PSA could not manage to have engagement with the employer as the court manager could not make it owing to ill health and the meeting was rescheduled to a later date. The PSA will not hesitate to escalate the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour should the engagement with the employer not yield positive results. It must be noted that the employer is legally obliged to provide a workplace that is safe and without risks to employees.

Shop stewards and members are urged to constantly assess their working environment and to immediately report any non-compliance to the PSA Provincial Office on 015 295 0500 or e-mail at queen.seema@psa.co.za.

Members will be informed of further developments.

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

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GENERAL MANAGER