

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

18-07-2023

Poor working conditions in various offices

The PSA has embarked on a safety campaign after noticing that most of the Department of Education's buildings are not complying with the *OHS*A and employees are subjected to health hazards as they are expected to work in dilapidated and neglected buildings. The PSA visited Sekgosese West and Central Circuits offices based in the Capricorn District and Sekgosese North Circuit offices in Tshitale area, in the Vhembe District.

The PSA conducted a walk-through inspection at these offices where the following were discovered:

- Dysfunctional toilets that are not flushing, forcing employees to use buckets every time they need to use the toilets.
- Both offices have no drinking water so employees must bring their own water to drink.
- Live electric wires on power sockets and distribution boards are exposed.
- Poor lighting as many globes are not changed; broken air conditioners and windows forcing employees to work in a cold environment.
- Visible and deep cracks on the walls of buildings, the ceiling is falling, wall paint peeling off and a leaking roof.
- Some offices have no doors while others have broken doors with no handles.

On engagement with members, it also became clear that workers do not have adequate working tools and engagements with the employer is underway. Further, for non-compliance relating to *OHS*A, the PSA escalated the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour after it became clear that the employer was not taking the safety of employees very serious.

The PSA will take the battle to the door of every department and parastatal that is not complying with the *OHS*A in the Limpopo Province and shop stewards and members are urged to constantly assess the 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. It must be noted that the employer has a legal obligation to provide a workplace that is safe and without risk to employees and those visiting the buildings. The safety of employees remains critically important to the PSA. Members will be informed of developments.

Employees who wish to join the PSA can contact Lawrence Muvhango on 082 880 8995 or Paulina Moloto on 082 880 8957 or the PSA Provincial Office on (015) 295 0500.

GENERAL MANAGER