

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

26-10-2023

Poor working conditions at Witpoort Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The PSA was alerted of poor working conditions and non-compliance with health and safety standards at the Limpopo Department of Health, Witpoort EMS in the Waterberg District. The PSA visited the workplace in September 2023 where the matter was raised urgently with the employer as the safety of members remains a priority. The matter cannot be negotiated as the employer is legally obliged to provide a workplace that is safe and without risk to employees as per the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The PSA was shocked during the visit to identify the following concerning issues:

- Poor ventilation as air conditioners have not been working for the past eight years despite constant engagement with the employer.
- Office neglected with broken and dysfunctional windows, front and garage doors not closing.
- Only one toilet for both males and females as the other one has not been working for a while.
- No provision of working tools in that employees do not have working landlines and no photocopy machines.
- Chronic shortage of medical equipment with no provision of jump bags for all Planned Patient Transport (PPT).
- Staff shortage with no administration staff for all 13 operational staff and two PPT staff, which adversely affects service delivery.
- Generator has not been working for more than five years, which is problematic during load shedding.
- Shortage of stationery, e.g., patient reports, logbooks and register books.
- No rescue vehicles although employees are expected to provide services.

As engagement with the employer failed, the PSA subsequently escalated the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour for intervention and a date of inspection is awaited. Members will be updated on developments.

Members who are working in dilapidated, unsafe, and unhygienic buildings must report this to queen.seema@psa.co.za or call the PSA Provincial Office on (015) 295 0500.

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

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER