

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

07-07-2023

Update: Non-compliance with *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)* - Hlanganani Cluster Circuit, Vhembe West District

The PSA visited Hlanganani North Circuit Office under Vhembe West district on 28 June 2023 and established that there is non-compliance with the provisions of the *OHSA* by the employer. Employees are working in a neglected and dilapidated building with poor lights, dysfunctional toilets, broken floor tiles, cracked walls, broken doors without handles, and doors damaged by the termites. The office does not have clean and drinkable water. It only has access to dirty water from a borehole that is not drinkable, with the potential to cause diseases. There is no supply from the municipality pipe to the office, with no explanation on the cause. Employees must thus bring their own drinking water to work on daily basis. Exposed electric wires pose a danger, and some of the lights are not working. Some of window panels are broken and lots of broken furniture items are still in use. In addition, the electricity supply is constantly cut off by Eskom owing to non-payment.

It is unthinkable that the employer expects employees to work in such conditions, noting that it is winter season, and the windows are broken with no heaters. The PSA has engaged the Department on numerous occasions regarding the chronic failure to comply with the *OHSA* and compromising employees' health and safety. These interventions were without success and the PSA reported the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour, where it receiving the necessary attention. 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 / queen.seema@psa.co.za.

Members will be informed of developments.

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

GENERAL MANAGER