

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **NORTHERN CAPE - DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE**

14-07-2023

## Northern Cape: Occupational Health and Safety issues at De Aar Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC)

The PSA is shocked at the appalling working conditions of officials of the Department of Sports Arts and Culture at the De Aar offices. The PSA found the following deficiencies which are a direct contravention of *OHSA*:

- Non-functioning aircons in extreme cold weather.
- Several wall plugs are not working.
- Officials are being subjected to electrical shocks when using some plugs.
- Lights are not working.
- Fencing around the house does not provide a safe working environment for staff as there is no controlled access to the premises.
- No form of security is available in the building.
- Unlockable garage buildings which are being used by homeless people and have become a den of criminal activity, the worst was the recent discovery of a dead body in those garages.

The above is a direct contravention of *OHS Act 85* of 1993, the preamble of which reads as follows “*To provide for the health and safety of persons at work and for the health and safety of persons in connection with the use of plant and machinery; the protection of persons other than persons at work against hazards to health and safety arising out of or in connection with the activities of persons at work; to establish an advisory council for occupational health and safety; and to provide for matters connected therewith*”.

The PSA has already written a letter to the Head of Department requesting urgent intervention. The Union will not hesitate to advise its members to refuse to enter an unsafe working environment and will report the matter to Department of Employment and Labour.

GENERAL MANAGER