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FOR PSA MEMBERS: **FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

09-09-2024

Non-compliance with occupational health and safety (OHS) regulations: Virginia Clinic in Free State

The PSA has identified significant concerns at Virginia Clinic, where water accumulation, likely owing to ceiling leaks, creates hazardous conditions such as slippery floors and mold growth. These conditions endanger staff and patients and hinder proper cleaning, increasing the risk of infections. Of particular concern is the fact that the Clinic was previously closed by the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) owing to similar safety issues. Despite this, the Free State Department of Health reopened the Clinic without obtaining a clearance certificate from the DEL, a clear violation of occupational health and safety (OHS) regulations. The PSA has urgently called on the DEL to take immediate action against the Free State Department of Health for this oversight.

During a recent visit, the PSA noted additional OHS concerns, including the closure of some restrooms and non-functioning taps, which raise serious hygiene issues. Access to clean, functional restrooms is crucial for both staff and patients. The PSA has formally addressed these issues with the Free State Department of Health and demanded immediate repairs to the water leaks to prevent further damage and ensure a safe environment. Furthermore, the PSA has requested a renewed inspection by the DEL. If conditions continue to pose health and safety risks, the PSA may advocate for a temporary closure until all necessary repairs are completed.

Members' safety is a PSA priority, and the PSA remains vigilant. Members will be informed of developments.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER