

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICE - GAUTENG**

30-01-2024

Alberton Office employees' safety compromised by SARS

The PSA, which represents more than 5 200 SARS employees, is concerned with how the employer is dealing with issues that compromise members' health and safety in the Alberton Office.

Background

Employees at the Alberton Office were informed by SARS that they would be temporarily moved from their original office to a small office at a mall. This was to be the *status quo* whilst their permanent building/ offices were under renovations. Several OHS issues were raised by members, which have not enjoyed attention by the employer.

Employees were, for example, provided with a small light to use during load shedding, which does not provide sufficient lighting. Instead, they are using their cell-phone flashlights to look at clients' ID. Clients also complain that they cannot see where to sign on signature pads. This situation is affecting employees' sight as it puts strain on their eyes.

There is also no proper ventilation in the office and no security doors, as previously promised by SARS. Employees were promised a backup generator but to date, it has not been installed. The kitchen is small and only allows two people at a time. The system is also unstable when the power goes off and is slow. Sometimes, employees are forced to switch to dongle and VPN to get the system up again.

Furthermore, there is no proper space for safekeeping of laptops. Employees leave every day with laptop bags, which creates a huge security risk. In December there were incidents where bags were grabbed from employees in the mall. Members are tired of working in an uncondusive space and need a speedy resolution to this problem.

PSA intervention

The PSA has escalated the issue to the Head of Employee Relations and provided a time frame to address this matter. Members are encouraged to raise any issues of OHS to the following PSA representatives for urgent intervention:

Cde Dalinda Swart: FTSS Gauteng South - 081 016 5070 / dswart2@sars.gov.za

Cde Nkosingiphile Mdlalose: FTSS Gauteng South - 081 016 7606 / nmdlalose@sars.gov.za

Employees who are interested to join the PSA under Gauteng South are encouraged to also contact the mentioned PSA representatives. The following PSA Organising/Marketing Officer must be copied when forwarding new membership application forms to the said representatives: Cde Sibusiso Ndzala - Sibusiso.ndzala@psa.co.za

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER