

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GOVERNMENT PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION AGENCY (GPAA) - MTHATHA**

23-02-2024

## Feedback: Occupational Health and Safety issues - Mthatha GEPF office

The PSA Government Pensions Administration Agency (GPAA) National Chairperson visited the Mthatha office to assist in resolving the issues relating to Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) violations. These included inaccessibility of the office by clients, vehicle parking space, and safety of the employees because of the office location.

The following issues were addressed with the GPAA Mthatha Occupational Health and Safety Committee:

- **Condition of the office**

The committee found that the office did not have an emergency exit door in case of fire. The meeting resolved that the issue will be addressed with the department to relocate officials to a safe building. The issue of not having an escape door is a direct contravention of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) 85 of 1993*, wherein in terms of Section 7, the *Act* requires and thereby ensures that the employer provides and maintains a safe working environment for employees that is free of OHS risk.

- **Easy access by clients**

The committee found that there is no easy access to the office for elderly clients. The option of moving to the building was supported.

- **Unavailability of parking for clients**

The committee resolved that there was a proposal from the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) to move to the retail malls that are owned by the PIC. The committee agreed with the proposal.

- **Safety of employees because of the location of the office**

The GEPF Mthatha is located next to the taxi rank that is affected by taxi violence and that puts the employees at risk.

The National Chairperson confirmed the proposal that the GPAA office in Mthatha be moved either to BT Ngebs Mall or the Circle Triangle Mall in Mthatha. He stated that the matter will be discussed at the GPAA Bargaining Chamber and feedback will be provided.

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GENERAL MANAGER