

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO - SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA)

12-02-2024

Poor working conditions at SASSA in Limpopo

The PSA visited SASSA offices in the Waterberg District as part of service delivery to members and embarking, where it was discovered that employees are subjected to poor and uncondusive work environments, which contravene the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*. The PSA learnt that maintenance is neglected in almost all offices thus exposing employees to shocking working conditions, despite the *OHSA* providing that the employer has a legal obligation to provide a workplace that is safe and without risk to employees.

PSA representatives visited more than ten offices, namely, Lephalale, Witpoort, Thabazimbi, Mookgophong, Waterberg, Bakeberg, Mokerong, Belabela, and Mokopane local offices as well as the Waterberg District. All the offices are neglected with poor maintenance of the facilities. The following were discovered:

- Damaged blinds leading to direct sunlight without being able to fade sunlight.
- Dysfunctional and broken air conditioners and thus no ventilation in most offices.
- Broken and non-locking doors, which compromise safety.
- No signs indicating emergency, exit and assembly points.
- Damaged ceiling, falling cornice and missing trap door in one office leading to excessive heat.
- Broken kitchen cupboards, cubicles, and floor tiles.
- Bushy and unkept gardens/yards exposing employees to reptiles.
- Exposed electrical wires.
- Constant shortage of water at Lephalale office forcing employees to use public toilets at the nearest hospital, which are not clean.
- Water purification system filter never changed, leading to dirty, undrinkable tap water.
- Uneven floor at the gate at one of the offices, which caused injury of an employee.
- Dustbins being washed in the kitchen sink causing cross pollination of germs.
- Inadequate working tools such as mops and basic cleaning equipment.
- Dirty carpets that are so dirty that employees are requesting for these to be removed.
- Poor lighting as many lights are not working properly.
- Shortage of paper towels and broken urinals.
- Small spaces to accommodate employees and clients.

- Parts of back wall collapsed at Mokopane, thus compromising security.
- Bakenberg borehole motor damaged since October 2023 and still not repaired.

The PSA will engage with the employer to ensure that these issues are urgently addressed as the Union cannot allow its members to work under such conditions that impact on their health and safety. The workplace is hazardous, and the employer must speedily address these problems. Members who are working in dilapidated, unsafe, and unhygienic buildings must report this to queen.seema@psa.co.za or call the PSA Provincial Office on (015) 295 0500.

Employees who wish to join the PSA can contact Lawrence Muvhango on 082 880 8995, Paulina Moloto on 082 880 8957 or contact the PSA Provincial Office.

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