

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS (DHA) - LIMPOPO**

08-07-2024

Non-compliance with *Occupational Health and Safety Act* - DHA Malamulele Office

The PSA visited the Department of Home Affairs Malamulele Office, Vhembe District, in Collins Chabane Municipality, as part of service delivery and engagement with members. The PSA witnessed terrible conditions of employment in clear contravention of *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

It was discovered that the Office has 20 employees who are cramped in six tiny offices with no space for free movement. Employees are using buckets to flush toilets as there is no running water in the building. They must also bring their own water to drink as there is often shortage of drinking water. The yard is bushy and poses a danger to members of the public and employees, as snakes are frequently observed. In one incident, a snake entered the car of an employee. There are no cleaners, leaving offices dirty and exposing employees to respiratory problems.

Clients visiting the offices for services do not have proper shelter or waiting areas. Lights are not working in some offices. There is no proper storeroom and important documents are left lying around with boxes being stacked on top of filing cabinets. The smell is terrible, forcing employees to permanently close windows, which creates a problem with air circulation and ventilation in the small offices.

On engagement with members, it also became clear that the employer is failing dismally to ensure that the workplace is safe and without risk to employees. Engagement with the employer is underway and the PSA has escalated the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour to conduct an inspection. Members will be informed of developments.

Shop stewards are encouraged to report any alleged contravention in the workplace to the PSA Provincial Office for further assistance to queen.seema@psa.co.za.

Employees who want to join the PSA can contact Lawrence Muvhango at Lawrence.muvhango@psa.co.za / 082 880 8995 or Paulina Moloto at Paulina.moloto@psa.co.za / 082 880 8957.

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GENERAL MANAGER