



**FOR PSA MEMBERS: EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DSD) -  
GQEBERHA AREA**

15-05-2025

## Members raise health and safety concerns at Eastern Cape Department of Social Development, Stutterheim

On 2 May 2025, the Department of Labour and Employment officially closed the DSD Stutterheim offices owing to serious non-compliance with occupational health and safety standards. Despite the closure, members reported that management had instructed them to continue performing their duties and to submit reports - even though no arrangements had been made for remote work, and no tools of trade or official vehicles were provided.

In response to this serious concern, the PSA urgently engaged the Department. On Sunday, 4 May 2025, the PSA contacted the DSD Head Office to request an immediate consultation. A response was received on 9 May 2025, and a meeting was scheduled for Monday, 12 May 2025. The meeting was convened and attended by affected members (in person and virtually). The DSD was represented by the Director of DSD who chaired the meeting, the Area Manager, and departmental officials from the Infrastructure Unit. The DSD confirmed that the closure stemmed from severely dysfunctional toilet facilities, office chairs without armrests, as well as a lack of windows and proper ventilation.

It reported that a cleaning company had since been appointed to address the toilets, and boardroom chairs were repurposed to replace the broken ones. Discussions are ongoing with the building owners regarding ventilation issues. However, the DSD noted that the absence of a valid lease agreement has led to reluctance from the building owners to do necessary compliance upgrades. The Department committed to resolving this matter. During the meeting, the PSA made it clear that members cannot be expected to perform duties or submit reports without the necessary tools of trade. This was acknowledged and accepted by the Director who admitted that the DSD had not taken the appropriate steps to enable staff to work effectively. He committed to improved consultation with organised labour and staff going forward. The PSA will continue to monitor the situation closely and ensure that members' rights and working conditions are protected.

The PSA encourages members to report unsafe or unfair working conditions without delay. Members' safety and dignity in the workplace remain the PSA's top priority.

Reuben Maleka  
GENERAL MANAGER