



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (EC DoH)**

30-03-2026

## Botha Sigcau inferno update

### Temporary relocation

The Eastern Cape Department of Health called unions and workers to a meeting at the Mthatha Town Hall on 27 March 2026. The purpose of the meeting was to report on the damage following the inferno at the Botha Sigcau and working arrangements as the building is inhabitable. The employer acknowledged that the Botha Sigcau building is inaccessible, leading to workers being unable to report for duty. The employer reported alternative options of relocating to the LSA building next to Gateway Clinic. A team consisting of labour and management will visit the accommodation and report its findings on 31 March 2026. Labour noted the report and proposed that the accommodation that will be found must not put employees in a worse off financial position. Where such occurs, the employer must make possible means of transportation or incentive. In the meantime, employees were urged to remain at home but be on the lookout for the *WhatsApp* groups that the employer created as most communication will be made on such platforms. Similarly, the employer invited Human Resources, Supply Chain and Disaster management to file reports. The following were presented:

### Human Resource report

HR assured the employees that they will receive their salaries despite being unable to render services. However, the following delays were reported:

- Nurses overtime - the batch that was enroute to Bhisho for submission and approval was burnt thus calling for the affected employees to resubmit their applications.
- Ex employee's gratuity payments
- Road accident fund payments

### Supply Chain Management

- Reported that all their documents were burnt with no backup.

Whilst the above reports were made by HR and Supply Chain Management, it remains concerning that the disaster management could not file a convincing report but advised that they will await the fire services report about the details and impact of the damage, to which they will intervene. Labour expressed disappointment with the reports rendered as they are not assisting with the current disaster but instead putting a burden on the employees. Labour emphasised that whilst the employer is making means to retrieve the lost information, no employee must be charged because of the lack of proper

systems by the employer. Labour further condemned the incident and called on the employer to prioritise health and safety of the employees at the workspace in line with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. Labour also requests sourcing of psychological services for employees.

Members can *WhatsApp* Ms Shukuma on any developments regarding the Botha Sigcau matter on 082 880 2936.

Reuben Maleka  
GENERAL MANAGER