

## PSA raises serious OHS concerns at Bizana and Willowvale offices

The PSA has reported serious occupational health and safety (OHS) violations, affecting employees at the Department of Education offices in Bizana and the Department of Social Development (DSD) offices in Willowvale, to the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL). These matters were reported by the PSA after members raised concerns about unsafe and hazardous working conditions.

### **Bizana: Department of Education**

Following the PSA's complaint, the DEL conducted an inspection at the Department of Education offices in Bizana and issued a Prohibition Notice and a Contravention Notice against the employer for non-compliance with OHS legislation. The Prohibition Notice prevents the Department from allowing employees to work under the following hazardous conditions:

- Employees were working in a building that shakes when people walk inside, without a structural stability report confirming the safety of the building.
- Employees in the IT section were exposed to tripping hazards caused by electrical cords lying on the floor.
- Flammable liquids were stored together with materials that could easily ignite a fire, posing a serious fire risk.
- Employees were working in an office where the entrance area has exposed electrical wiring, creating an electrical hazard.

In addition, the Contravention Notice identified several violations of workplace safety regulations, including failure to conduct proper risk assessments, provide adequate safety equipment, ensure first-aid compliance, maintain safe walkways and adequate workspace, ensure proper lighting and ventilation, and keep emergency exits accessible. The Department of Education has been given 60 days from 5 March 2026 to rectify these safety concerns.

### **Willowvale: Department of Social Development**

The PSA raised serious OHS concerns regarding unsafe working conditions at the DSD offices in Willowvale. Members reported that the workplace environment is unsafe and not compliant with OHS

standards. They further indicated that the DEL conducted an inspection in 2023, but no feedback or corrective action was communicated, and conditions remained unchanged for nearly two years. Reported hazards include:

- Structural hazards, including falling ceiling boards and unstable wooden floors.
- Electrical faults, including electricity tripping and causing sparks.
- Health risks, including mites falling from the ceiling causing skin rashes and floor mats causing itching and sinus complications.
- Insufficient office space to accommodate all officials.
- Inadequate sanitation facilities, with only two toilets shared by staff and clients.
- Faulty drainage, with a leaking and overflowing toilet drain.
- Rodent infestation, including the presence of rats.

A follow-up inspection by the DEL confirmed that the employer had only renovated certain sections of the workplace whilst leaving other unsafe areas unattended. As a result, the employer was still found to be non-compliant, and the matter is being referred to statutory services for prosecution.

The PSA will continue to monitor both matters closely and engage with the relevant Departments and the DEL to ensure that employees work in safe, healthy, and compliant environments. The PSA will not tolerate conditions that place the health and safety of workers at risk and encourages members to update the PSA on such violations for assistance in protecting their rights.

Join the PSA today by contacting Zizipho Shukuma - [Zizipho.shukuma@psa.co.za](mailto:Zizipho.shukuma@psa.co.za) / 082 880 2936 or Zingisile Mgxaji - [Zingisile.mgxaji@psa.co.za](mailto:Zingisile.mgxaji@psa.co.za) / 082 880 8959.

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