

Springbok Emergency Medical Services base

The PSA has raised a concern with the Head of Department in Health relating to deficiencies at the Springbok Emergency Medical services base of the Namakwa district. It is requested that the deficiencies be addressed urgently. Those concerns are in particular as follows:

Inadequate sewerage drainage system

The drainage system was not designed for the current capacity of personnel. It is, in fact, a residential property. When the system overflows, it emits an unpleasant odour in the building, creating a significant health risk and exposure to disease.

Absence of biohazard (blood) disposal system

The lack of a proper and safe system for blood disposal exacerbates this facility's health risks. Blood flows through an open canal and often accumulates near the front gate, posing a severe biological hazard.

No waste management storeroom and conducive ablution facilities

The facility lacks a designated waste management storeroom and compliant ablution facilities for operational needs. Any EMS base needs a storeroom for scheduled drugs that has restricted access control, which is a serious regulatory and safety concern.

Absence of surgical storeroom

There is no designated area for storing surgical or medical supplies, affecting infection control and operational efficiency.

Lack of air conditioning in offices

Several offices, manned by personnel daily, are without air conditioning. The staff contingent is up to 20 on a rotational basis. Temperatures reach close to 40°C, creating poorly ventilated and uncomfortable working conditions in severe heat and cold.

Need for rest facilities for shift-working employees

There are no dedicated rest or recovery facilities for EMS personnel, despite the nature of emergency work requiring adequate rest between shifts.

No security personnel after hours

The premises house several non-operational ambulances and valuable government equipment, unattended and vulnerable owing to a deficiency of proper fencing, thus creating a risk to theft and vandalism, especially because there is no security overnight.

Back-up water and electricity supply

The nature of the work rendered by EMS, especially during the night, means that a constant supply of water and electricity is crucial for efficient service delivery. Operations are disrupted when no backup systems are in place.

The PSA will monitor the interventions by the employer to ensure that deficiencies are addressed and that members are working in safe and harmonious workplaces. Members at other Departments experiencing similar deficiencies are encouraged to alert the PSA for escalation and speedy resolution.

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GENERAL MANAGER