

PSA new Bisho Office:

Empowering shop stewards with *closer* support

The PSA opened a Regional Office in Bisho in the Eastern Cape on 1 August 2025, reaffirming the Union's commitment to bringing services closer to members and strengthening on-the-ground support for shop stewards.

The Office will be fully staffed in the near future, marking yet another milestone in the PSA's strategy to decentralise operations and improve accessibility for members across the Eastern Cape. The Office expands the PSA's footprint in the Eastern Cape to three offices (*i.e.*, Mthatha, Gqeberha, and Bisho), ensuring that members and shop stewards have more convenient access to Union services. The Bisho Office, situated at **Unit 19, Amatola Business Village, Sarhili Street, Bisho Park**, is strategically located in the heart of the provincial administration, where most government departments and head offices are based. This allows the PSA to respond swiftly to workplace matters and engage directly with key decision-makers.

For shop stewards, the Bisho Office provides a physical space, a vital resource for empowerment, connection, and growth. Benefits include:

- Reduced travel time for meetings, consultations, and member engagements, allowing stewards to dedicate more time to resolving issues and strengthening workplace relations.
- Faster turnaround time on grievances, disputes, and collective bargaining matters - support from the PSA will be readily available in the region.
- Enhanced safety and cost-efficiency, as shop stewards no longer need to travel long distances on poor roads to reach PSA Offices.
- Improved coordination of local Union activities and campaigns, with a designated, professional environment for planning, training, and communication.

- Greater access to mentorship and development opportunities, as PSA provincial and national structures will be able to host workshops, training sessions, and leadership development programmes directly from Bisho.

The Bisho Office provides a venue for PSA structure meetings, removing logistical challenges of securing external facilities and allowing shop stewards to meet, plan, and collaborate in a space designed specifically for Union work. This will strengthen local structures, increase member engagement, and support communication between the PSA and the Union's workplace representatives. The Bisho Office is currently managed by PSA Labour Relations Officer, Nobuntu Mabandla, supported by two Full-Time Shop Stewards. The team will soon be joined by an Organising/Marketing Officer and a Members' Affairs Coordinator, ensuring that members and shop stewards receive support in all areas of the PSA's service delivery.

The official opening ceremony is scheduled for early 2026. Shop stewards and members in the area are invited to attend the event to celebrate the PSA's growing strength and visibility in the Eastern Cape.

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The PSA is committed to empowering shop stewards, as critical role players to promote and protect the rights and interests of public-sector employees. With a stronger and accessible presence in Bisho, the PSA continues to expand a Union that is closer, more responsive, and more united.