

World Day for Safety and Health at Work: Fostering culture of safety and well-being

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World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April is a reminder that every worker has the right to a safe and conducive workplace. Occupational health and safety (OHS) are fundamental to worker protection, productivity, and economic stability. Employers and unions must cooperate to implement preventive measures, ensure compliance with safety regulations, and adapt to evolving workplace conditions.

Shop stewards play a crucial role in OHS, serving as a vital link between workers and management to ensure a safe and healthy workplace. On *World Day for Safety and Health at Work*, it is important to recognise shop stewards' efforts in advocating for proper safety measures, reporting hazards, and ensuring compliance with labour laws and workplace regulations.

Shop stewards empower employees by raising awareness about workplace rights, facilitating OHS training, and actively participating in workplace safety committees. Their dedication helps to prevent workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities, fostering a culture of safety and well-being that benefits workers and employers.

Shop stewards are frontline defenders of workplace safety, ensuring that OHS policies are enforced, and that workers' rights are upheld. They play a critical role in:

- **Identifying and reporting hazards:** Acting as a bridge between workers and management to address safety concerns before they escalate.
- **Advocating for training:** Ensuring that workers receive proper OHS education, particularly in adapting to artificial intelligence (AI)-driven workplaces.
- **Preventing exploitation:** Monitoring AI implementation to prevent overburdening workloads, constant surveillance, or job displacement.
- **Collaborating in policy development:** Representing workers in negotiations to create fair and inclusive digital workplace policies.

Safety is not a privilege - it is a right. Employers, unions, and workers must collaborate to ensure AI and digital tools enhance, rather than undermine, worker well-being. The PSA is committed to advocating for strong safety measures, worker empowerment, and the fair implementation of digital advancements. On *World Day for Safety and Health at Work*, the PSA extends appreciation to the Union's shop stewards for their commitment to making workplace health and safety a priority every day by means of vigilance, innovation, and collective action.

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