

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DSD)**

06-03-2023

Victory: Violation of occupational health and safety standards – Eastern Cape DSD

Members will recall that the PSA visited the Department of Social Development in Maclear on 2 March 2023 to address the serious occupational health and safety risks at the Department. Following the PSA's intervention and meeting with the employer, a report was obtained on 3 March 2023 whereby most matters of concern raised by the PSA, were resolved as follows:

- Overflowing sewage: The landlord reported that it changed the service provider and the matter was attended to and resolved.
- Bad carpet smell resulting from the water leakage was attended to wherein a chemical odour neutraliser was applied.
- Fire extinguishers were corrected to be 11 and not one as previously reported by the PSA. At the time of the PSA's visit all the extinguishers were taken for servicing and only one was visible.
- The landlord reported that the keys to the emergency door were given to the Department when it occupied the premises. However, the locks will be changed by the landlord at own cost albeit not its responsibility. In its report it also confirmed that there are two emergency doors.

Noting the above, the PSA appreciates the prompt response by the employer on such matters of critical importance. There are two crucial issues that were brought to the attention of the Head of Department for urgent intervention. These being the absence of cleaning services and the urgent training of the Health and Safety (SHE) representative who is not trained, thus nullifying her existence. The PSA demands alternative relief by appointing cleaners rather than releasing employees at 13:00 daily but still returning to the same dirty office the following day. The PSA awaits the HOD's response on these two critical matters. Members will be update on developments.

The PSA calls on all members who are affected by this challenge to urgently contact the PSA at Samkelo.mzuku@psa.co.za (Mthatha and surroundings) and Riaan.vosloo@psa.co.za (Gqeberha and surroundings).

GENERAL MANAGER