

What is happening in Limpopo?

Irregular Motor Vehicle Auction stopped

The Department embarked on a process to dispose of assets in terms of the Disposal Policy that was approved on 26 November 2019, which deals with the disposal of assets including motor vehicles. The policy provides that vehicles first be offered to departmental employees as first preference. Strangely, the Limpopo province advertised motor vehicles with erroneous model years which was deemed misleading by the PSA hence the employer was engaged to amend correctly. Upon engagement with the employer, the employer acknowledged the gross mistake and undertook to re-advertise the bids using the correct year models of the vehicles. The PSA is happy to have stopped the irregular process that would have disadvantaged members and will closely monitor the process to ensure that there is no recurrence of these issues or discrepancies when disposing of state assets.

Inspection of Buildings taking long owing to Understaffing

The PSA engaged the department regarding its failure to conduct inspections after the reporting of several departments for their non-compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*. The PSA is concerned that the departmental failure to investigate inadvertently promotes non-compliance with the *Act*, which puts the safety of employees at risk. The other problem was that the department was also failing to provide the PSA with copies of their findings after conducting inspections, despite the PSA being the complainant on behalf of members. Various buildings of the departments of Education, Agriculture, Health, Justice, GPAA, and SASSA were amongst those reported and awaiting inspections. The department attributed their inept performance to capacity which confirms the view by the PSA that the department is understaffed, which affects their efficiency and ability to meet their constitutional mandate. There was however an undertaking from the department that the reported matters will be attended, albeit at a slower pace. The PSA demanded that continuous progress be provided on a regular basis to the PSA to enable regular and timeous report to members. If the situation does not improve, the PSA will escalate the matter to Director-General as the health and safety of members remains fundamental and cannot be left to chance. Members will be kept abreast of further developments.

Employees who wish to join the PSA can contact Lawrence Muvhango on 082 880 8995 / lawrence.muvhango@psa.co.za or Paulina Moloto on 082 880 8957 / paulina.moloto@psa.co.za.

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