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FOR PSA MEMBERS: **FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

07-03-2024

Occupational health and safety: Fauna Primary School

The Department of Labour and Employment (DEL) conducted a visit to Fauna Primary School in response to the PSA's request. During the visit, concerns were raised regarding the presence of asbestos in certain classrooms, particularly those designated for learners with special needs. Considering these concerns, the DEL instructed the School to immediately remove learners with special needs from the asbestos-containing classrooms. This action is being taken to prioritise the health and safety of all students and staff members.

Asbestos exposure poses significant health risks, especially in educational settings where learners spend a significant time each day. Inhalation of asbestos fibers can lead to severe health complications, including permanent lung damage and an increased risk of lung cancer.

The DEL will conduct a follow-up visit to ensure that the necessary measures have been taken to address the asbestos-exposure risk adequately.

The PSA urges members to reach out to the Union with any concerns regarding health and safety issues in the Free State schools. Please submit such matters to Mpho Tlhatlogi at mpho.tlhatlogi@psa.co.za.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER