

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes national inspection drive by Department of Employment and Labour
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the much-needed national inspection drive by the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL), which resulted in fines of R10 million for delinquent employers.

The DEL conducted some 2 681 inspections across the country and discovered breach of laws pertaining to occupational health and safety, the national minimum wage, basic conditions of employment, compensation of occupational injuries and diseases, and immigration.

The inspections also resulted in the arrest of 81 undocumented foreign nationals. The inspections conducted covered less than 40% of workplaces, which is a clear indication that the contravention of labour legislation is rife. The culture of non-compliance can be attributed to a myriad of factors but at the heart is a shortage of staff and resources to regularly undertake such critical inspections. Many employers are taking advantage of the high rate of unemployment and poverty to exploit desperate and vulnerable persons by short-changing them, knowing that the DEL rarely conducts workplace inspections.

Whilst the DEL is commended for conducting the much-needed inspections, there is an urgent need to employ more inspectors to ensure that delinquent employers will be brought to book. Compliance is not negotiable and must be enforced. This will only be possible through the adequate resourcing of relevant departments. Many government departments are accommodated in unsafe buildings, which equally need constant inspection to ensure that the health and safety of workers are prioritised.

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