

Feedback: Meeting between ILO TWG and MEC for EC Health

Following an inspection conducted by a Departmental Employment and Labour Inspector at Frere Hospital in East London, and the issuing of a health and safety non-compliance certificate, the MEC of Eastern Cape Health made a request to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for technical support.

A technical working group (ILO TWG) had been established on 17 September 2020, with representatives from the following institutions in attendance during the meeting:

- Department of Employment and Labour (national and provincial)
- Department of Health EC
- Representatives from recognised trade unions
- ILO

On 21 April 2021 a meeting was held between the ILO TWG and the MEC of EC Health. During the meeting a presentation was given by the ILO TWG to the MEC with information relating to the progress made and support given by the ILO TWG in addressing and reducing the impact of COVID-19 in the Eastern Cape health sector, in relation to occupational health and safety. The following concerns identified during visits to various Health facilities were discussed with the MEC:

- Some facilities have policy frameworks but are not facility-specific tailored.
- There is limited communication on the policy framework.
- Only a few facilities have OHS committees in place.
- There is vague collaboration with quality assurance, Infection prevention control and employee wellness.
- There is a lack of OHS coordinators positions on the organogram.
- Risk assessment and exposure profiling are non-existent.
- Only some facilities have a COVID-19 response team.
- OHS roles, responsibilities and accountability have not been formalised at any of the facilities.

- Poor OHS coordination and performance monitoring.
- Lack of OHS Training.

Recommendations and proposed actions were submitted to the MEC to remedy the identified concerns. The MEC confirmed that the above concerns will receive the necessary urgent attention these require and deserve. Members will be updated on progress made to remedy the mentioned concerns.

GENERAL MANAGER