INFORMUS

Update: Compliance with COVID-19 protocols

The PSA was alerted that three employees tested positive for COVID-19 at Lephalale Labour Centre and reported to the employer on 7 July 2021. Shockingly, it is alleged that the acting Manager decided not to close the office to facilitate disinfection of the office owing to inadequate budget. Further, tracking and tracing was not implemented where infected employees continued to have contact with colleagues. The employees fear for their safety and the reckless behaviour of the employer is not assisting, particularly that the number of cases are growing every day.

The employer is exposing employees to possible infection by failing to implement safety measures as provided by COVID-19 regulations. The matter was reported to the provincial office, which did not do anything. What defies logic is that other offices that experienced positive cases, were closed and disinfected but Lephalale Labour Centre is treated differently.

A letter was subsequently sent to the Provincial Head to ensure immediate intervention and the inspector attached to the office will be advised to act within their scope of work and authority by issuing a prohibition notice for the non-complying office. It must be noted that the Provincial Head's failure to immediately intervene will be viewed as a gross irregularity and dangerous by deliberately allowing employees to work in a workplace that is unsafe.

The PSA was also informed that there is a deliberate exclusion of PSA shop stewards when risk assessments are conducted in offices, which defies logic as the PSA is not only recognised but also the majority Union at the Department.

Experts have warned about the third wave, which is more dangerous but the management seems to be oblivious of the surging number of COVID-19 cases when it is aware that some employees have already lost their lives owing to the virus.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER