

Feedback: Provincial OHS/COVID-19 meeting

The following issues were discussed during a virtual meeting on 8 April 2021:

OHS requirements

Members will recall that a service provider was appointed to lower the counter and remove the carpet and tiles at the Phalaborwa Office from 12 March 2021. However, it was reported that the work is yet to resume. The PSA expressed disappointed on the lack of progress. The employer was given until month end to finish the project. If there is no compliance, the PSA will engage the labour inspector as the explanation was not acceptable. It was reported that the Modimolle office installed a generator although it is yet to be linked to the control unit to enable the activation in case of electricity disruptions. The server is not yet installed and employees are working in mobile trucks. The PSA demanded the prioritisation of the finalisation of the project as the employer is obliged to provide a safe and conducive working environment.

COVID-19 management

The 500 hazmat suites delivered are yet to be distributed owing to their inadequacy. A quotation will be sourced to procure additional suites. It was noted that the received quotations are expensive and to avoid further delay, the available suites must be distributed equally to all districts while the employer is trying to get reasonable quotations. The district reported that it has enough PPE, however the floor marks for social distancing are fading. Upon enquiry by the PSA regarding the fading markings as it is a requirement in terms of the COVID-19 regulations, the employer responded that these will be renewed.

Employees infected with COVID-19

The number of infected employees is still 74, with no active cases, three deaths and 71 recoveries. No office was closed since the last meeting. The PSA commended the employer and cautioned it not to relax.

Steering Committee meeting

Districts continue to hold COVID-19 meetings and the PSA appreciates the consistency of meetings to resolve immediate problems at local level.

GENERAL MANAGER