

Feedback: Provincial OHS/COVID-19 meeting

The following issues were discussed during a virtual meeting on 20 May 2021:

Progress: OHS requirements

At Phalaborwa, rubble has been removed and offices were deep cleaned. The burst pipe has been replaced but the evacuation plan is still not completed as the municipality is assisting. Fire extinguishers have also not been replaced as Public Works is still securing the service provider. The counters are still to be mounted so that they are not loose. The PSA is awaiting an inspection by the labour inspector.

COVID-19 management

All districts collected the hazmat suits and distributed these to members. Some employees returned without wearing the suits owing to the difficulty of wearing these over a skirt, as they are uncomfortable and very hot. Some employees stated that they are not prepared to wear the suits. The employer requested further engagement because of the concerns raised. The PSA requested time to consult with members and report back in the next meeting. Members are thus requested to give a mandate if they will need more hazmat suits to be distributed or not. The response should be forwarded to caroline.vorster@psa.co.za or before 2 June 2021. The employer reported that it still has enough PPE. It was reported that there is progress in the replacement of face masks and procurement will soon be finalised. The PSA appreciated the efforts by the employer to comply with safety requirements.

Employees infected with COVID-19

The employer reported that the number of infected employees is still 69 with 66 recoveries and three deaths with no new infections since the last meeting. That there was no office closed since the last meeting.

Steering Committee meeting

Districts presented their reports except for Vhembe that was not at the meeting. The PSA raised a concern as it was a second week the said District did not attend the meeting and requested the employer to ensure all districts attend. Members are reminded to report non-compliance to their shop stewards.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER