

## Non-compliance with *OHSA* - Bela Bela Hospital

The PSA visited Bele Bela Hospital on 27 September 2021 to assist a member who was subjected to unprocedural disciplinary proceedings when discovering non-compliance with *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*. All fire equipment, including fire extinguishers, were serviced last in October 2019 and were supposed to be serviced in October 2020, however, this did not take place. Subsequently, the PSA engaged the Hospital CEO, Mr Mosimege, regarding the non-servicing of the fire equipment who attributed the non-compliance with the *OHSA* to the non-renewal of the contract with the service provider. He further advised the PSA that the new service provider was recently appointed, and the matter will be addressed before the end of October 2021.

Although the PSA sharply raised the concern of exposing employees to possible danger in case of fire erupting at the hospital, the appointment of a service provider is a step in the right direction and the PSA will monitor compliance. However, should the employer fail to service the fire equipment before the end of October 2021, the PSA will not hesitate to escalate the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour.

The PSA urges all shop stewards in Limpopo to verify that fire equipment is serviced as this present huge risk for employees should fire erupt. Further, employees must be provided with basic training on how to operate fire extinguishers and fire hoses and must understand evacuation procedures and how to contain fire. This is against the background that the service provider was not only responsible for the hospital but for the Department and the PSA understands that some hospitals might be in the same condition as Bela Bela Hospital.

Members are urged to contact the Provincial Office at [queen.seema@psa.co.za](mailto:queen.seema@psa.co.za) to report work-related problems, including non-compliance with *OHSA* as the PSA prioritises the health and safety of members.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER