

## Victory for PSA members – Musina Magistrate Court closed

Members will recall that the PSA was alerted by members about their poor working conditions, which led to a visit on 17 September 2020. Upon unsuccessful engagements with the employer, the matter was escalated to the Department of Employment and Labour for inspection of the building and a Contravention Notice was issued in September 2020. The PSA again visited the Court on 28 May 2021 and learnt that the situation has not improved despite the Notice. A follow-up was made with the inspector, resulting in a follow-up inspection on 26 July 2021 and the issuance of Prohibition Notice.

The PSA persistently fought for the safety of members as a conducive, safe workplace is not a favour but a requirement in terms of the *OHS Act*. The safety of employees is a critical matter and can lead to unintended consequences such as stress, chronic ailments and even loss of lives. The PSA could not rest where employees were subjected to unwarranted danger. Problems ranged from a dilapidated structure, where the roof was balanced by a stack of bricks to prevent it from falling, inadequate and dysfunctional toilets, no access to clean and drinkable water, leaking roof, poor lights, damaged ceiling, no locking filing cabinets for confidential files, protruding and exposed electrical cables, non-provision of cleaning service and broken air conditioners. Owing to inadequate office space social distancing was impossible. To make matters worse, people were welcomed by piles of stones and rubble in the yard and unprotected trenches that were dug three years ago, which caused injury of two employees. The Department of Public Works unfortunately could not assist.

Although sympathising with the members of the public who will have a challenge to access services, the PSA is happy that the building is finally closed to ensure safety of employers and clients who were serviced in a building that could have collapsed or catch fire at any time.

Members are urged to continue reporting non-compliance with *OHS Act*. Problems can be reported to [queen.seema@psa.co.za](mailto:queen.seema@psa.co.za)

GENERAL MANAGER