

Update: COVID-19 positive cases

The PSA was alerted that at least seven employees tested positive for COVID-19 at Mankweng Hospital. According to the information, the affected sections are HR Records, Finance and Supply Chain. It must be noted that the Limpopo Department of Health took a stance to act against the DPSA *Circular 5* regarding decongestion of workplaces by implementing remote work and rotation system. A letter was written to the Hospital CEO, demanding urgent compliance with COVID-19 regulations. Despite the engagement between the PSA shop steward and the employer through the Labour Relations and Human Resources, the employer failed to take reasonable steps to ensure compliance with COVID-19 protocols.

The PSA engaged the HOD who insisted that she stands by her directive in a form of an issued *Circular*. The PSA escalated the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour and intervention is awaited. The PSA is of the view that the conduct of the employer was in direct violation of COVID-19 regulations and the *OHS Act*, thus failing to protect workers in the workplace. The situation demonstrates the importance of implementing the rotation system, which assists in decongestion of the workplace and where positive cases are experienced, the service is not totally disrupted.

The PSA wishes infected employees a speedy recovery and strength to those in isolation and awaiting results. Members are urged to constantly wear masks, sanitise, wash hands with soap, observe social distance and limit movements whilst on duty or away from work and avoid social gatherings and congested places. Members are advised that if not feeling well, to immediately report to the employer and consult a medical doctor.

Shop stewards are urged to constantly monitor compliance with COVID-19 regulations, OHS matters and address other workplace challenges. Matters that cannot be resolved, escalate these to the PSA Provincial Office at queen.seema@psa.co.za or (015) 295 0500.

GENERAL MANAGER