

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS (PRETORIA AREA)

28-08-2024

PSA intervenes on working conditions at Home Affairs digitisation facilities - Pretoria

Silverton Post Office Depot

The PSA received a complaint relating to non-compliance with occupational health and safety (OHS) standards at the Department of Home Affairs' Silverton Digitisation facilities. Employees also complained about inadequate ventilation whilst in other sections rooms are extremely cold. The PSA undertook a liaison visit to this facility on 22 August 2024 and made damning findings, laying bare the Department's apathetic attitude towards cleanliness and hygiene.

The first noticeable concern when entering the facility is dirty carpets and boxes filled with rubbish, with used tissue and toilet paper scattered over the floor. Employees reported that cleaners at the facility only arrive once a week. Restrooms are dirty and there are no rubbish bins or sanitary (SHE) bins, which are necessities in any workplace facility in terms of *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

There are also not adequate chemicals to maintain toilets and ensuring that desks are properly cleaned. This is exposing employees to risks of contracting bacterial and viral infections. Some 600 to 1 000 digitisation contractors are sharing amenities such as toilets/rest rooms and kitchen whilst the supply of toilet paper, sanitisers, and cleaning chemicals is almost non-existent. Employees also complained about a lack of ventilation and extremely cold air conditioning as they do not have control over the air conditioners.

The PSA will write to the Department of Labour and Employment to request an urgent inspection of the facility to determine the extent of non-compliance with OHS standards.

Employees who wish to join the PSA in the Pretoria area can contact Madimetja Mautla on 078 455 6166 / Madimetja.mautla@psa.co.za.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER