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FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE (DPWI)

13-09-2024

Feedback: DPWI Special Departmental Bargaining Chamber - 11 September 2024

At the recent meeting, the following agenda items were discussed:

Non-compliance of DPWI buildings

Nedbank Building (Nelspruit Regional Office)

The employer reported that the walkabout scheduled for 23 August 2024 was cancelled owing to an inspection by the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) on 20 August 2024. This inspection followed a complaint from labour, leading to a prohibition notice being issued for fire hazards, flammable substances, and poor housekeeping. An action plan to address the findings has been submitted, though access to the building remains restricted. The Department has requested access for 20 employees who cannot work remotely owing to system issues but has yet to receive a response. The DEL also issued a prohibition notice for unsafe ventilation conditions. An air quality assessment by an independent assessor is pending. The PSA welcomed the prohibition notice but expressed disappointment that employees were not allowed to work from home until the issues were resolved.

Occupational Health and Safety Report on AVN Building (Pretoria Regional Office)

The employer reported that issues raised on 12 March 2024 were related to housekeeping and day-to-day maintenance, not non-compliance. Key issues included poor housekeeping, malfunctioning toilets, and missing evacuation chairs. All issues have been addressed, and the PSA will continue to monitor the situation.

Compliance of Public Relations Department 2 Building (Mthatha Regional Office)

The PSA raised concerns about long-standing non-compliance issues, including non-functional air conditioners, overloaded electrical systems, and broken toilets. The landlord committed to resolving these matters by specified deadlines, with some extending as far as November 2025. The PSA demanded that employees be allowed to work from home whilst the defects are being addressed. The employer has not yet provided a mandate but will respond by 18 September 2024.

Central Government Offices Building (DPWI Head Office)

Following complaints regarding leaks during rain, the employer confirmed that employees would be relocated to the Civitas Building once it meets compliance standards. A steering committee is overseeing

the relocation process, and labour will be involved. Members are encouraged to report any building defects to PSA Provincial Offices. Members will be informed of developments.

The PSA remains actively engaged in addressing these issues and continues to advocate for the safety and well-being of members. Members will be kept informed of further developments.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website (www.psa.co.za), send an email to ask@psa.co.za, or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER