

FOR PSA MEMBERS: KWAZULU-NATAL (DURBAN AREA) – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

25-07-2024

Update: Occupational health and safety (OHS) matters - Durban High and Magistrate Courts

The PSA noted recent developments regarding occupational health and safety (OHS) matters affecting both the Durban High Court and Magistrates Court. The PSA has raised concerns about several critical issues, including:

- Dysfunctional lifts
- Inadequate toilet facilities
- Lack of clean water
- Electrical faults and challenges
- Faulty sprinklers
- Falling window frames and concrete
- Defective fire lines
- Non-operational CCTV cameras
- Absence of proper evacuation plan

In response to these concerns, the PSA's Provincial Office in Durban has requested an urgent bilateral meeting, which was held on 22 July 2024, with representatives from the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) and the Regional Department of Justice. During this meeting, the PSA tabled its concerns and requested that management provides detailed actions to address these issues by 24 July 2024. Management has agreed to share an action plan with timelines with the PSA and proposed a date and time for further discussions. The NDPW cooperated fully and provided a report for inputs and discussion, resulting in the PSA provincial leadership deciding to suspend any picketing to allow for fair negotiations and the sharing of the report with members.

The report summary addresses all the above-mentioned concerns raised by members. The report further includes a clear action plan, demonstrating the NDPW's commitment to addressing the concerns. The PSA's further intervention with the NDPW has been instrumental in obtaining this report. The PSA will share the report with members and source a fresh mandate on 26 July 2024. The PSA has suspended industrial action to avoid engaging in bad faith, as the NDPW has provided an update in the form of a report. The PSA expects the NDPW and the Department of Justice to prioritise the occupational and health legal considerations.

The PSA will be meeting at 13:00 on 26 July 2024 with members from the High Court and Durban Magistrates Court to present the NDPW report and source a mandate on the way forward. The next meeting with management will be on 1 August 2024.

The PSA will not allow members to be subjected to unsafe working conditions. The PSA has been monitoring progress at the Durban Magistrates Court and has observed the efforts by the NDPW. It is trusted that all safety concerns will be addressed.

For more information and to join the PSA, please contact PSA provincial organisers: Xolani Dhlamini - 073 813 9646 / xolani.dhlamini@psa.co.za, Cynthia Mbali - 082 880 8953 / cynthia.mbali@psa.co.za, or Nkosephayo Zulu - 082 880 8994 / nkosephayo.zulu@psa.co.za.

Alternatively, you can contact the full-time shop stewards: Nkosinathi Thwala - 081 016 4923, Ernest Mkhize - 081 016 5028, Nondumiso Mvubu - 081 016 5024, Jabulani Bukhosi - 063 737 8498, or Sthembile Ngcobo - 081 016 5085.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER