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FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

10-10-2024

Non-compliance with *Occupational Health and Safety Act*: Limpopo Department of Health Davhana Clinic Vhembe District

The PSA witnessed serious health and safety concerns during a recent visit to Davhana Clinic in Vhembe District during a visit that formed part of service delivery and engagement with members. These conditions reflected a clear contravention of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*. The PSA witnessed exposed electrical wires, which pose the danger of electrical shock to patients and employees and the risk of fire should a short circuit take place. The employer removed damaged ceiling parts in nurses' rooms in 2022 but has not repaired the ceiling, leaving the rooms exposed to dust. There is a constant shortage of water supply for the entire Clinic, resulting in toilets not being able to flush. There is also an overflow of blocked sewage, causing an unpleasant smell at the Clinic. Lights are not working, and several doors are damaged and cannot be locked.

The PSA subsequently engaged the employer on 4 October 2024 to discuss the unhealthy and unsafe conditions. This resulted in the repairing of the exposed electrical cables on 7 October 2024. The PSA subsequently escalated the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour to conduct an inspection to ensure that the employer complies with the *OHSA*.

The employer is failing dismally to ensure that the workplace is safe and without risk to employees' health and safety. The PSA will continue address issues where employers are contravening occupational and health standards. Members will be informed of developments. Shop stewards and members are urged to report any non-compliance to the PSA as the health and safety of employees remain of paramount importance and cannot be left at the hand of uncaring employers. Such non-compliance can be reported to queen.seema@psa.co.za.

Employees who wish to join the PSA can contact Lawrence Muvhango: Lawrence.muvhango@psa.co.za / 082 880 8995 or Paulina Moloto: Paulina.moloto@psa.co.za / 082 880 8957.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER