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FOR PSA MEMBERS: **PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATING BARGAINING COUNCIL (PSCBC) - LIMPOPO**

06-09-2024

Feedback: PSCBC task team inspection *in Loco*

Members will recall that after the PSA raised concerns regarding the state of buildings in the Limpopo where members are working, a task team was established to address this matter. Subsequently, the task team resolved that the buildings will be visited to ascertain their status. The task team visited the Department of Social Development in Vhembe District, Place of Safety and One-Stop Center for inspection *in Loco*. The place of safety houses children who are victims of abuse and those that have been convicted by courts for criminal acts and committed as juvenile criminals.

The inspection confirmed what the PSA has said for a long time, namely that many buildings do not comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* as they do not pass the test of safety and present risks to employees. Although the buildings were found to be in a good shape, maintenance was neglected. There are broken doors, damaged kitchen sinks in both dormitories that can cause injury to the children, dysfunctional lights, and broken windows. The yard is also not properly maintained.

The team inspected both the Place of Safety and One-stop Center, and it was found that the buildings are not dilapidated, except for the broken doors that the children damaged. There are holes in the doors as they are made of cardboard. The kitchen sinks in both boys' and girls' dormitories are damaged, and supported by bricks which can injure children. In Place of Safety, lights are not working and there are broken window panes in boys' dormitories. At the One-Stop Center it was found that the yard is bushy at the back of the premises. There is no access to drinkable, clean water. Buckets are used to flush the toilets. Toilets have been out of order for a long time. The ceiling and floor tiles are broken. There are spider webs in the ceiling and cracked floors in the manager's office and on the passage.

The employer will be alerted of the non-compliance to ensure that these issues are addressed soonest, failure which, the PSA will approach the Department of Employment and Labour for intervention. The PSA will not allow members to be subjected to unsafe working conditions as the employer is legally obliged to provide a safe workplace for employees. Members will be informed of developments. Shop stewards are encouraged to report any alleged contravention in the workplace to the PSA Provincial Office for further assistance to queen.seema@psa.co.za.

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

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