

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS (DHA) - LIMPOPO**

29-08-2024

## DHA non-compliance with *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)* in Limpopo

The PSA visited the Department of Home Affairs office in Bela Bela on 23 August 2024 as part of service delivery and engagement with members and was shocked to be confronted by unsafe and unhealthy working conditions that employees were subjected to. It was clear that the electricity was faulty as it was constantly tripping, posing a danger to employees and members of the public who were served at the building. Further, there was no proper ventilation, with worn-out ceilings and inadequate filing space, thus forcing employees to put files in available open spaces and limiting space to move. The conditions made it difficult to clean and control the infestation of rodents in the building.

The PSA alerted the employer of the non-compliance with *OHSA* and immediately escalated the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL), noting the urgency of the situation. DEL inspectors promptly visited the office and conducted an inspection, resulting in the issuing of a Prohibition Notice on 26 August 2024. The Department has a poor record in respect of compliance with the *OHSA*. It is not the first time that its offices have been closed owing to non-compliance but there is still no improvement. The Department does not prioritise the health and safety of employees and clients and the PSA will continue to closely monitor all these buildings in Limpopo. The provision of a safe working environment is not a favour by the employer but a legal obligation and the right of employees that cannot be trampled over under the PSA's watch. The matter will also be tabled at the recently relaunched Provincial Consultative Forum as the PSA cannot allow members to risk their lives in the name of providing services. Where non-compliance is identified, this must be reported to the PSA Provincial Office at [queen.seema@psa.co.za](mailto:queen.seema@psa.co.za) or (015) 295 0500.

Employees who wish to join the PSA can contact Lawrence Muvhango on 082 880 8995 / [lawrence.muvhango@psa.co.za](mailto:lawrence.muvhango@psa.co.za) or Paulina Moloto on 082 880 8957 / [paulina.moloto@psa.co.za](mailto:paulina.moloto@psa.co.za).

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