

Update: Northern Cape Substance Abuse and Treatment Centre

The PSA requested the Department of Social Development (DSD) to investigate serious concerns at the Substance Abuse and Treatment Center in Kimberley. The DSD made a commitment to address the issues but a month later, nothing was done. As reported in the previous *Informus* the issues that were addressed are listed below.

Deviation from Admission Criteria Policy (*Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act, 2008*)

- Admission of High-Risk Clients
- Clients with special needs requiring specialised care.
- Clients with transmittable diseases (e.g., TB) with a history of defaulting treatment. Increased risk of transmission to employees and other clients.

The PSA is of the view that the Centre is admitting patients and ignoring specific criteria as listed above. This needs to be curbed as it could pose a serious threat to the safety and well-being of members.

Non-compliance with *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHS Act, 1993)*, specifically section 8 (General duties of employers)

- The treatment center is facing significant OHS challenges, compromising the well-being of employees and clients.
- Broken infrastructure and inadequate facilities.
- Broken toilets and showers in wards.
- Admission of high-risk clients.
- Clients with special needs requiring specialised care.
- Clients with transmittable diseases (e.g., TB) with a history of defaulting treatment. Increased risk of transmission to employees and other clients.

Insufficient cleaning materials and sanitation

- Inadequate cleaning supplies owing to budget constraints.
- Inability to maintain clean and sanitised environments.

The PSA calls on the HOD to address the matters or else will demand closure of the facility.

Members will be updated on developments.

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