

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA) - LIMPOPO**

02-09-2024

SASSA Limpopo: Non-compliance with *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*

Members are aware that the PSA has been trying without success to engage the employer regarding unsafe and uncondusive working conditions at Dr CN Phatudi SASSA Office, Makhubidung village under Mopani District. Upon seeing that the employer had no appetite to address safety concerns raised by the PSA, the PSA had no option but to escalate the matter to the Department of Employment and Labour to conduct an inspection as empowered by the *OHSA*. The Inspectors responded to the call and visited the office on 30 August 2024, which led to the issuance of Contravention Notice and Prohibition Notice as it became clear that the health and safety of employees were compromised.

The inspection confirmed what the PSA has alluded to all along, in that the building does not comply with the *OHSA*. The Inspectors discovered, amongst others, the following:

- No suitable first-aid box equipment was installed
- Floors were not properly maintained and there was water leaking from air conditioners
- Dysfunctional toilets and compromised hygiene with poorly cleaned offices
- No valid certificate of compliance for electrical installation

The Inspector had seen enough and the fact that the office does not have running water led to the issuance of a Prohibition Notice as the workplace does not comply with section 8.1 of the *OHSA* and regulation 2 of facility regulations. It is shocking that the employer expected employees to work in an environment without running and drinking water and non-flushing toilets owing to the lack of water. The reliance on tankers did not help as the water was not suitable for drinking. The employer was given 60 days to address the non-compliance matters.

The PSA recently conducted inspection at all SASSA offices in Waterberg District where it became clear that there was an issue of compliance that needed urgent attention. It would have thought that SASSA would have assessed its compliance in other districts after the PSA alerted it to the safety challenges. The safety concerns of employees are not prioritised by SASSA. Employees will be reporting at the Tzaneen Office from Monday, 2 September 2024.

Where non-compliance is identified, members are urged to report such to the PSA Provincial Office at 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 or Paulina Moloto on 082 880 8957 / paulina.moloto@psa.co.za.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER