



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

24-01-2025

What is happening at DHA?

OHS non-compliance at Port Elizabeth Refugee Reception office

The PSA received complaints from members that they are suffocating in the office due to lack of proper ventilation. The air-conditioning system has not been working since the building was occupied. The heat is unbearable during summer season and extremely cold during winter season. The complaints were reported to the office management and there was no intervention. Subsequently, the PSA escalated the matter to head office and the meeting was convened on 23 January 2025. The employer reported that they are aware of the ventilation problems at the office and the Property Management directorate was attending to the matter. They further reported that a contractor will be send to the office on the 27 January 2025 to conduct an assessment and provide feedback. The PSA was not satisfied with the response and demanded that the employer find alternative accommodation for employees as a temporary measure while they are busy fixing the air-conditioning system. The PSA further indicated that the matter would be reported to the Department of Employment and Labour for assessment to establish if the building complied with OHS provisions. The members will be informed about the developments.

Transfer of Port Control support staff to Border Management Authority (BMA)

The PSA received complaints from members that the employer intended to transfer support staff from Port Control directorate to BMA without proper consultation. The PSA demanded that the employer stop the process to transfer the affected employees until the proper consultation with labour is finalised. The parties agreed to convene a follow-up meeting with the directorate responsible, so that the consultation processes could be outlined and agreed upon. The members will be informed about the developments.

Parking allocation at Hallmark building

The members were previously informed that the department identified an underground parking space at *Isivuno house* building which is situated in the central town. The PSA together with some of the affected employees, inspected the parking space in December 2024. The parking space is 1,5 kilometers away from the *Hallmark* building. The PSA urged the employer to issue an internal circular to inform employees about the logistical arrangements going forward. The members will be informed about the developments.

The PSA will also table the above-mentioned matters at the next Departmental Bargaining Chamber (DBC) for further engagement and monitoring.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website, send an email to ask@psa.co.za, or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER