

**FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS (DHA) – EASTERN CAPE  
(MTHATHA AREA)**

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06-03-2025

## PSA addresses serious OHS concerns and demands action - DHA Cofimvaba

The PSA remains extremely concerned about unacceptable health and safety conditions at DHA Cofimvaba. Following a meeting between the DHA, the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL), and the landlord, a contravention notice was issued, giving the employer 60 days' notice to attend to the violations that were listed as follows:

- Electrical installation regulations ensuring safe use and maintenance of the electrical installation.
- Environmental regulations for workplaces wherein the employer is instructed to:
  - Ensure that all floors and walkways are in a good state of repair, skid free and free of obstruction.
  - That roof and walls of every indoor workplace are kept sound and leak-free.
  - That provision of adequate supply of suitable firefighting equipment at strategic locations as recommended by the chief of the local authority and maintenance of such equipment.

The PSA noted the contravention notice but is of the opinion that it did not address all OHS violations consisting of:

**Lack of water supply** – The building's water pump is faulty, leaving employees without access to drinking water or ablution facilities.

**No evacuation plan** – In the event of an emergency, employees have no guidance on how to safely evacuate the premises.

**No emergency exit** – The absence of an emergency exit poses a direct threat to employees' lives.

**Overgrown grass and lack of fencing** – These conditions compromise hygiene and create security risks.

**Poor ventilation** – Employees are unable to open windows owing to overgrown grass, resulting in an unhealthy and uncomfortable working environment.

Despite commitments from the landlord to address some of these concerns, including the provision of water, only a portion of what was promised has been delivered. These conditions render the workplace uninhabitable and pose serious risks to employees' health and safety.

The PSA is monitoring the 60-day contravention notice and is planning another meeting with the employer to address the issues that the DEL inspection failed to address to the PSA's satisfaction.

Members are encouraged to engage Samkelo Mzuku at [samkelo.mzuku@psa.co.za](mailto:samkelo.mzuku@psa.co.za) and Zingisile Mgxaji at [Zingisile.mgxaji@psa.co.za](mailto:Zingisile.mgxaji@psa.co.za) to report safety violations or to call the PSA Provincial Office on (047) 501 2500.

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