

Feedback: OHS matters - Free State: Lejweleputswa

Closure of Bophelong Clinic, Monyakeng Allenridge

The Department of Labour has directed the Department of Health to close Bophelong Clinic owing to non-compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 85 of 1993*.

Key findings by Labour Inspectors

Unsafe building structure: The Clinic premises are constructed with asbestos materials and are undergoing incomplete refurbishments. Exposed and unsecured electrical wiring presents a serious safety risk to employees and patients.

Closure and prohibition notice

A closure certificate has been issued to clinic management, prohibiting employees from entering the facility to prevent exposure to asbestos (asbestosis risk) and potential electrocution.

Management's unilateral decision on working arrangements

Under the directive of the acting District Director of Lejweleputswa District Health Services, employees were instructed to work in the Clinic yard without access to proper ablution facilities or water supply. Employees were forced to take shelter under trees or remain in their vehicles during adverse weather conditions.

Employee response and organised labour intervention

The PSA and other recognised unions were called upon by affected members for intervention after repeated pleas to the Local Area Manager were ignored. In response to the unsafe and inhumane working conditions, employees halted work and sought organised labour support.

PSA recommendations

The PSA recommends that employees and clinic services be temporarily moved to Leratong Clinic, which is nearby and accessible. The employer must provide safe, compliant, and secure temporary structures for employees and patients to ensure adherence to occupational health and safety regulations.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER