

Sassa move to new Bloem premises delayed

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SOUTH African Social Security Agency (Sassa) officials in Bloemfontein yesterday stood outside under the trees the entire morning instead of working.

There has been talk of Sassa being evicted from its offices. Other officials said they were supposed to move but had safety concerns about the new premises.

Sassa in Bloemfontein denied it had been evicted from their long term offices in the CBD.

Sassa provincial manager Sibongile Xaba said they were moving to the new

offices in the same street.

“We were supposed to have moved out of that place in St Andrew Street where many people knew it was our offices on Thursday but we asked to move out today.

“I want to correct the rumour that says we have been evicted. We delayed because the place where we are supposed to go – has not yet been finished so the officials did not want to go there as the space is too small for all of us and it has a lack of toilets,” Xaba said.

She said they then moved to an alternative building that belongs to the public works department and there is enough

space to accommodate everyone.

“The space is opposite to Centlec electricity supplier and we are expecting to be there until this coming Friday. The challenge is that there is no water there and we bought bottled water so that our staff can go and work there,” Xaba said.

She said they were renting the previous offices on a month-to-month basis because they were still looking for a place they could move to.

Some employees said the management knew that the place where they were supposed to go to was not safe.

“There is also a risk in terms of

health and safety as the offices are not ready to be used. We cannot go there and work, let the management find a better place where we can work. We had to stand outside in the morning because we wanted to find a solution,” the employee said.

Another said management should not look for a place without considering safety. “We have moved to an alternative place and as long as there will not be a better place where the offices can operate we will not move to an unsafe place,” officials who also wanted to remain anonymous said.

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CONCERNS: Sassa officials in Bloemfontein standing outside the offices after confusion over the move to alternative offices.