

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DST)

24-02-2020

Facilitation meeting: Health and safety issues at DST

The PSA observed that the DST building was not safe and posed a health risk to employees. At the Departmental Bargaining Chamber (DBC) meeting on 13 November 2019, the PSA indicated that the employer was not taking the health and safety of employees seriously as the building poses a health risk.

The employer reported that it is busy procuring alternative accommodation. However, the process was delayed by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. In the meantime, the employer implemented a short-term measure for interim relief. The PSA noted the report but was not satisfied with the slow process of securing alternative accommodation for employees. As a result, section 17 of GPSSBC Resolution 1/2012 was invoked.

On 21 February 2020 at the facilitation meeting, the PSA remained unhappy about the condition of the building and emphasized the importance of securing alternative accommodation. The PSA further requested an urgent meeting with the Director-General of DST to engage on challenges experienced as result of the condition of the building and the process of securing alternative accommodation for the Department. Parties agreed to convene such meeting by 2 March 2020. Parties also agreed to revive the Occupational Health and Safety Committee to assist with issues of health and safety in the Department. The facilitator noted the deliberation between parties and proposed that the matter be deferred back to the DBC as a standing item.

The PSA will keep members informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER