

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS (DHA)

17-10-2019

Feedback: Departmental Bargaining Chamber

Members have been informed of the background and progress around issue in previous editions of the *Informus* (copies can be obtained from the PSA's website (www.psa.co.za) or from any PSA Provincial Office).

Funded, vacant posts

The DHA stated that 51 posts were advertised and will be filled after the recruitment and selection process was finalised. It indicated that it received an instruction from Treasury not to fill vacancies, which resulted in extra workload for existing employees. The acting Director-General of Home Affairs stated in Parliament that the DHA was operating with 44% of the approved structure, which is a challenge as a result of the provision from Treasury. This is a serious concern to the PSA and pressure will be applied on the DHA to ensure that vacancies are filled.

24-Hour operation; Selected ports of entry

The employer in the previous meeting tabled the need for Lebombo, Kopfontein, and Oshoek ports of entry to operate 24 hours. Currently, these ports are operating for 18 hours with two shifts. According to the DHA, neighbouring countries requested for these Ports of Entry to operate 24 hours. Parties agreed to establish a task team to deal with this matter and an inspection in loco was conducted at these ports of entry. The task team reported that the ports were not ready to operate 24 hours owing to a shortage of employees and accommodation.

Danger Allowance

The DHA reported that only Immigration Officers were offered Danger Allowance in the DHA. It indicated that it became aware that there are duties performed by other occupational categories in the DHA that carry the same risks as Immigration Officers. The DHA will embarking on a process to identify those other occupations that should also receive the Danger Allowance. **Members are requested to provide inputs through PSA provincial offices by 1 November 2019** to motjatji.maila@psa.co.za.

Policy: Management of Stamps - Ports of entry

The DHA tabled the policy for consultation at the Chamber. The objective of the policy is to support the national interest and the DHA's vision of a safe and secure South Africa by managing passport stamps in a standardised, regulated and controlled manner. The draft policy (*attached*) will apply to all Immigration Officers at ports of entry. **Members are requested to provide inputs through the PSA Provincial Offices by 1 November 2019** to motjatji.maila@psa.co.za.

Members will be informed of developments.

Ivan Fredericks
GENERAL MANAGER