

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION (DIRCO)

21-05-2019

Update: Departmental Bargaining Chamber (DBC) - 15 May 2019

Collective Agreement: New shift system

Parties are still experiencing a challenge to conclude this agreement following the complexity to average hours of work. Irrespective of this challenge, the employer circulated a new draft agreement, dated 14 May 2019, that was developed following the advice that were sought from the Department of Public Service and Administration and the General Public Service Sectoral Bargaining Council on the new shift system.

The content of the draft was read to the Chamber. The PSA indicated to the employer that the draft does not address the actual challenges relating to the averaging of working hours and it was agreed that a bi-lateral will be scheduled to discuss the matter further.

Payment: Subsistence and Travel (S&T) allowance claims - International trips

This matter was previously tabled by the PSA following challenges experienced by members and other employees when withdrawing money while on international trips. The PSA indicated that in some instances and depending on the strength of currencies of countries officially visited, employees are:

- Disadvantaged by getting far less than allowances paid to them,
- Compelled to pay medical expenses in the case of injury sustained during official international trips, and
- Negatively affected by contradiction between S&T Financial Circular of 2018/2019 and letter from National Treasury.

The employer promised to source an expert to clarify and elaborate on the written response that was given to labour. Members will be informed of developments.

Ivan Fredericks
GENERAL MANAGER