

Feedback: Bargaining Chamber

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The constitution of the GPSSBC provides for an AGM to note the vote weights of representative trade unions in the DBC and elect a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons. The vote weights are important since these determine whether a decision or collective agreement of the Chamber is binding on the members of a trade union and whether a meeting forms a quorum and may proceed.

The following members were re-elected. Mr Ando Donkers as Chairperson and Ms Granny Mahlangu as Vice Chairperson: Employer. The seat of Vice Chairperson: Labour remains vacant for the moment while labour is busy securing a replacement for the previous incumbent.

The vote weights are as follows:

- PSA – 72,56%
- NEHAWU – 26,83%
- POPCRU – 0.58%

PSA remains the majority trade union in the Department and would like to thank its members for their continued support.

Compliance with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and COVID-19 Regulations

PSA tabled an item last year to monitor compliance with various aspects related to OHS. This item has since been overtaken by the COVID-19 pandemic and parties therefore agreed to combine/replace the previous item with the new standing item from the side of the General Public Service Sectoral Bargaining Council (GPSSBC) to monitor compliance with OHS and COVID-19 prescripts/legislation in the workplace. This item will remain on the agenda for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. The attached compliance checklist as signed by the employer, confirms compliance with all 12 points.

Labour noted the report but raised a concern around item 5 concerning the communication of return to work, based on a recent incident following a positive case. The employer communicated the information late and decontamination was scheduled over the weekend without taking into consideration that some employees were working. Labour requested the employer to ensure that employees are informed timeously and to ensure that a period of at least 48 hours is allowed before employees return to work.

On item 6 labour indicated that it is aware that the providing of tools of trade is an ongoing process, even though the employer indicated full compliance.

The PSA wants to take this opportunity to wish all employees who are unwell due to the virus a safe and speedy recovery.

GENERAL MANAGER