INFORMUS

Smart card ID applications: COVID-19 alert level 3

Pursuant to the announcement of the risk-adjusted strategy by the President of the Republic, departments were informed about the services to be rendered under alert level 3. The DHA was directed to render the following services:

- Issuance of uncollected Identity Documents
- Issuance of births and deaths
- Reissue of birth and death certificates
- Issuance of passports to those in export and cargo transport
- Marriage ceremonies

The PSA has discovered with dismay that the DHA had introduced the applications of smart card IDs under alert level 3 without consultation with labour. Employees are instructed to process the smart card ID applications for matriculants at respective schools without a clear directive from COVID-19 regulations. The PSA supports the initiative to help matriculants with ID applications but maintains that it should not be done at the expense of the health and safety of employees. The DHA did not conduct a risk assessment on how employees would be protected from being infected with the virus while performing such function. The DHA risks the possibility of increase of further infections with the virus amongst employees.

The PSA wrote to the DDG: Civic Services, DDG: HR and the Compliance Officer on 28 June 2020 to highlight the risks of introducing more services without proper health and safety measures being in place. The PSA emphasized that the employer must not prioritise production and service over the lives of employees. The PSA urged the employer to consult sufficiently with labour before the implementation could take place. The PSA proposed that the matter be discussed at the next DBC meeting on 8 July 2020. The PSA will not hesitate to take further actions in terms of COVID-19 regulations and OHS protocols should the employer fail to adhere to the concerns raised. Members are advised to be vigilant and report any dissatisfaction to the PSA through shop stewards.

GENERAL MANAGER