

FOR PSA MEMBERS: GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (GCIS)

29-05-2020

Employees Return to Work

The GCIS issued a circular dated 6 May 2020 recalling all employees to report for duty with the exception of employees who are over 60 years of age and those that have underlying conditions and co-morbidities. The PSA made several attempts to indicate to the employer to reconsider their decision to recall the entire staff compliment. A letter was sent to the employer and engagements were held at the Departmental Bargaining Chamber, but the employer refused to accede to the PSA's requests.

The PSA appealed to the employer that even though the regulations under level 4 allowed them to recall all the employees under 60 years with no co-comorbidities, most employers have resorted to running their operations with only one-third of employees reporting physically in offices on a rotational basis, while others work from home. PSA urged the employer to adopt a similar approach in order to avoid exposing employees to the risk of being infected with coronavirus.

The employer refuses to grant permission to employees able to be perform remotely from home. The PSA views the employer's attitude on this matter as insensitive and irrational. Service delivery has been prioritized over the well being of employees at the time when the nation and the world at large are combating an invisible enemy. The PSA has warned the employer that should there be an outbreak of infections at the GCIS building, the entire workforce will be at risk and forced to be in isolation which will greatly impact on service delivery that is being prioritized over the wellbeing of our members.

The PSA will monitor the Department's compliance with regulations and the set protocols. There will not be any hesitation to report the employer to relevant authorities should there be non-compliance.

Members will be informed when there are further developments.

GENERAL MANAGER