

FOR PSA MEMBERS: KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT (DOT)

18-05-2020

FEEDBACK: Virtual Meeting with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport

The virtual meeting took place on 14 May 2020 and the following was discussed:

Isolation/Quarantine facility within the DOT

The employer reported that in terms of the DPSA guidelines each department must have its own Isolation and Quarantine facility for the purposes of employees who cannot quarantine themselves. The DOT suggested that due to limited resources the Isolation and Quarantine should be dealt by the Department of Health.

The PSA reiterated that compliance is non-negotiable and demanded that the DOT must have its own Isolation and Quarantine facilities for its own employees. The PSA further reminded the employer that Section 8(1) of the OHS determines that every employer must provide and maintain, as far as reasonably practicable, a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of employees.

The meeting resolve that the matter will be deferred to the OHS committee for further discussion and feedback will be communicated to the PSA.

Leave Lapsing end of June 2020

Management indicated that they are waiting guidance from DPSA since all leave for the law enforcement were cancelled.

The PSA raised its concern that we have about six weeks left to reach the end of June and leave of employees will lapse if the DOT its not urgently attends to this matter and verify with DPSA to find a directive. The employer indicated that they would communicate with DPSA and give feedback.

Potential Covid-19 Cases

The management reported that at Vryheid service centre the spouse of the employee tested positive for Covid-19 but the employee tested negative and the employee is currently on self-Isolation.

The PSA suggested that the second test be done to the employee and the DOT to trace those who were in contact with the spouse of the employee, we further propose that the register, temperature scanner and to screen people, should be made available to all employees and members of the public

who gain access to the DOT buildings to sign the register for the purposes of track and tracing those who tested positive and those who were in contact with.

Appointment of Ex-Nurse or unemployed nurses to conduct scanning

The DOT inform the parties that they are planning to appoint former or unemployed nurses to conduct the screening and scanning, management indicated that DPSA circular 7 of 2020 regulated by PSR 57(2)(b) authorise such appointment of health care practitioner and management reported that a database will be visited to check the availability of health care practitioners.

The PSA welcome the suggestion and requested the DOT to verify with the Department of Health regarding the remuneration of the contracted health care worker to avoid salary disparity that might rise as a grievance. Management undertook to investigate the issue of remuneration.

Members will be updated on the developments.

For more information please contact Mlungisi Ndlovu on 082 903 6805 or Nkosenye Ndlovu 082 880 8979

GENERAL MANAGER