INFORMUS

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (EMS)

22-05-2020

Request for PDP copies and HPCSA Cards

The PSA was alerted by frustrated members of the employer's harassment at the Emergency Medical Services at the Capricorn District. The employer is demanding the copies of renewed cards from the Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and Professional Driving Permits, even though these offices are closed for members to renew the same.

The request is unreasonable considering that HPCSA issued a memo that in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the extension of the deadlines for renewal and payment of annual fees to 1 July 2020 and the period of validity of the existing HPCSA practicing certificates, will apply until 30 June 2020. Furthermore, the Department of Transport issued regulations on 20 May 2020, wherein all learner's licenses, driving licenses, temporary permits, roadworthy certificates, and professional driving permits that expire during this period, that commence from 26 March 2020 up to and including 31 May 2020, are deemed to be valid and are extended for a further grace period of six months from the date of the publication of these direction.

This request defies logic as the employer should be aware that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the lockdown and closure of services, as the safety of the people was prioritised. The employer is also having ambulances and cars that have expired disks, that members are using because of the prevailing situation, whilst the employer is oblivious of the effects of the pandemic.

The PSA will engage with the employer to ensure that this unreasonable request is suspended pending the relaxation of lockdown restrictions and opening of services to members of the public. The employer will also be reminded that the payment of the renewal of HPCSA cards should be done by the employer and this was not yet effected by the employer. The employer should desist from harassing members with no justifiable cause.

Members will be advised of the development.

GENERAL MANAGER