

INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTORAL
BARGAINING COUNCIL (PHSDSBC)

23-04-2020

Provision of necessities: Newly appointed Interns and other Care Workers

The COVID-19 pandemic impacts on health employees and the entire public health system. The effects will persist for a considerable period and necessitates improved stakeholder involvement to avoid lapses in the provision of healthcare to communities.

The pandemic has, amongst others, highlighted the need to permanently employ healthcare workers, home-based providers, social workers, nurses, environmental health practitioners, early childhood development practitioners and related health professionals whose work focuses on providing services essential for human survival and development. The pandemic underlines the fact that additional human-resource capacity for health-related professionals should be prioritised.

The PSA is aware of the recent intake of Interns who are mostly care workers and now deployed in various provinces and workplaces in various occupations. The Union's concern is, however, that the Department of Health has not put in place the necessary support for these Interns who form part of COVID-19 frontline teams. There is a lack of accommodation and other necessities as most outlets are closed owing to the lockdown, resulting in newly deployed Interns needing resources.

The PSA therefore requested the Department of Health's intervention to provide newly deployed Interns with needed resources until the lockdown period is uplifted and they can access stores to purchase items such as mattresses, uniforms, etc. The PSA will update members on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER