

FOR PSA MEMBERS: SOUTH AFRICAN HEALTH PRODUCTS REGULATORY
AUTHORITY (SAHPRA)

21-08-2020

Feedback on bargaining forum meeting: 19 August 2020

Proclamation by the President for Special Investigative Unit to investigate maladministration and corruption at SAHPRA

It has come to the attention of labour that investigations by SIU, to investigate maladministration and corruption at SAHPRA have been ongoing for over a month, without staff members being notified. We are of the view that the process is biased as it does not provide equal opportunity for all current and former SAHPRA staff members to present evidence or affidavits to the SIU that would assist in its investigations. Instead, labour was informed that the Company Secretary is the nominated person to provide information to SIU investigators on behalf of the organization. This may affect the objectivity of the investigation in a case where the Company Secretary is also the subject of investigation for maladministration and corruption. We therefore urge the employer to be transparent and not to be seen to defeat the ends of justice by keeping the investigations a secret. SAHPRA staff members should be officially informed about the commencement of SIU investigations to allow any person to provide information to SIU.

Fruitless expenditure

The PSA takes note of fruitless expenditure by SAHPRA management where many of SAHPRA employees have been earning income for over two years without being productive. This is due to fact that SAHPRA management has rendered many of the employees transferred from the National Department of Health (NDOH) redundant while there are many activities to perform. Also, the unjustified delay in placement of transferred employees has immensely contributed to wasteful expenditure and low productivity. Instead, more attention is given to new employees, many of them employed on a fixed term contract in backlog projects.

Opt Out Meeting

Labour is very disappointed that the meeting between labour, SAHPRA management and the National Department of Health (NDOH) scheduled for 19 August 2020 to discuss the "Opt Out" process was postponed to next week Wednesday at the eleventh hour. The reason provided is that NDOH officials responsible are not available to participate in the planned meeting as they are said to be preparing responses to parliamentary questions posed to the Minister. The leadership of PSA is also of the view that SAHPRA management is not showing any sense of urgency and commitment to the opt out process as this is a long-standing issue.

GENERAL MANAGER