

INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA)

16-07-2020

SNBF UPDATE

SASSA Online Grant Applications

The employer made a presentation on the introduction of an online grant application capability as part of the SASSA online automation agenda. The online grant application is intended to minimise the high number of applicants and beneficiaries at SASSA offices. Grant applicants will have the option of submitting an online application, which will be captured and processed without the need for the applicant to visit a SASSA office. The online application will only be for the Old Age Grant, Foster Child Grant, and Child Support Grant, while all other grants will be phased in at a later stage. The system will also be used for maintenance actions such as change of address and change of banking details, etc.

The PSA noted the presentation and indicated to the employer that PSA members will be consulted to share their views and inputs on the intended system. It was further indicated to the employer that for union members to favourably consider the automation initiatives, the employer should find ways to re-skill and develop SASSA employees, to remain relevant in the organisation, as it embraces the Fourth Industrial Revolution. SASSA should be able to guarantee job security and the relevance of the current workforce and not render them redundant by automising their functions.

Members are requested to peruse the presentation of the employer (*attached*) and submit their inputs to the PSA on or before 22 July 2020 by emailing them to joseph.mashigo@psa.co.za.

COVID-19 update

The employer reported that SASSA, as of 10 July 2020, had a total of 85 reported COVID-19 positive cases. The Eastern Cape region has the highest number of infections with 48 positive cases and 2 deaths. The region with the second highest number of cases is the Western Cape with 14 reported cases, followed by Northern Cape with 7 cases, Free State with 5 cases, Gauteng with 4 cases, then KwaZulu-Natal with 2 cases, and Limpopo with 1 case. It was indicated to the employer that its report is not accurate as the numbers are more than what was reported. The employer committed to verify the numbers and update the report which will be sent to labour.

The PSA raised a serious concern with the high number of infections in the Eastern Cape and the unfortunate loss of lives. A demand was made to the employer to implement extraordinary measures in regions that have the highest number of positive cases such as the Eastern Cape. The reporting of COVID-19 cases, should not be a numbers exercise, as the affected individuals are human beings whose lives are valuable. The employer was further requested to develop a systematic approach to be followed in giving all the infected and affected employees psychosocial support.

Temperature Screening Positions

The PSA raised concerns with the employer's decision to advertise Temperature Screening positions for the SASSA head Office. It was indicated to the employer, that the need for such positions is more at the SASSA local offices, where the staff complement is generally smaller than head office staff and employees have a direct interface with clients. The PSA demanded that priority be given to local offices for creation of such positions, in light of the insufficient Occupational Health and Safety Representatives in local offices, to assist with the temperature screening. The employer committed to the consider the submissions made by labour and report on its decision.

Members will be informed of developments

GENERAL MANAGER