

What is happening in DCS?

OSD second phase of pensioners payment

Members will recall that the payment of the second-phase OSD is still outstanding for those employees who have retired or resigned from the DCS. Despite parties signing a settlement agreement on how the payments should be made, the employer still failed to make the payments to qualifying employees. According to the employer, the external auditors who are needed to audit files before files can be processed to be paid, could only recently start with the audit process. The PSA declared a dispute in terms of the GPSSBC governance rules to force the employer to provide an updated report on the total outstanding payments still to be made and to ensure that payments are made as soon as possible. The dispute meeting was facilitated by the General Secretary of the GPSSBC. Parties could not finalise the matter during the meeting, but the employer indicated that it will provide an updated report to labour during the first half of July 2021.

The PSA will also consider alternative legal recourse to be implemented to enforce the payments should the employer fail to provide an acceptable plan of action to ensure that payments take place.

COVID-19 regulations

Members will recall that the DCS developed a national steering committee that discussed the various COVID-19 regulations and impact on the DCS. The steering committee also discussed the number of staff required per shift. With the amendments to the national lockdown level, the steering committee met during the last week and will also meet in the coming week to amend the working arrangements in DCS.

The PSA already demanded the return to the 50/50-shift arrangements and rotational working arrangements for divisions outside correctional centres. The PSA is confident that the new directive will be concluded during this week to be implemented as soon as possible.

Members will be informed of developments.

The PSA wants to take this opportunity to wish all employees who are unwell owing to COVID-19 a safe and speedy recovery.

GENERAL MANAGER