

Feedback: Special Departmental Chamber - 11 June 2021

Public-private partnership with banks

As previously reported to members, the Department intends to enter into a public-private partnership agreement with commercial banks to render services of the Department. The employer reported that a task team has been established to facilitate the process. The PSA noted the report and requested that labour should form part of the task team so that the interest of employees could be protected. The PSA is concerned that the service and functions of the Department would be outsourced to commercial banks. Parties agreed to convene a special DBC meeting on 7 July 2021 to allow the task team to present a project plan. Members will be informed of developments.

Funded, vacant posts and vacancy rate

The employer reported that there are 20 430 posts in the total establishment and 8 560 are funded, of which 8 492 are filled. The employer identified 44 critical posts to be filled in the current financial year out of 68 vacant posts. The PSA raised a concern that the employer only prioritises to fill senior posts instead of lower-level posts. There is a need to increase capacity at various offices, especially at Immigration and Civic Services. The PSA requested an urgent meeting with the senior management of the Department to discuss the issue of shortage of staff at various offices. Parties agreed to convene such meeting on 17 June 2021.

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

GENERAL MANAGER