

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

24-02-2021

Feedback: Special Departmental Bargaining Chamber (DBC) meeting

A special DBC meeting was convened on 22 February 2021 and the following agenda item was discussed:

Piloting of immigration e-gates system at Cape Town Airport

It came to the PSA's attention that the employer intends to introduce a modernization process by rolling out an immigration e-gates project without consulting labour. The PSA raised a concern that the introduction of automation would have a direct impact on the conditions of service for immigration officers. The project intended to facilitate the processing of travelers using a biometric system, whereas previously immigration officers would check and stamp passports. As much as the system intends to enhance efficiency of systems at airports to reduce long queues and congestions, the PSA would safely ensure that job security of immigration officers is maintained. The PSA requested a consultation process for labour to understand the details of the pilot project.

The employer noted the concerns raised by the PSA and committed to start the consultation process before the rollout of the pilot project. The employer will make a comprehensive presentation at the next special DBC meeting scheduled for 3 March 2021 for inputs. Furthermore, the employer and labour will consider conducting an *in-loco* inspection at the Cape Town Airport to observe the practical implementation of the system before it is extended to other large international airports in the country. 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