

Feedback: Departmental Bargaining Chamber meeting

OHS/COVID-19 Steering Committee and compliance

The employer gave a verbal report that it is complying with all regulations and guidelines. The report, however, did not give a full account on how it has dealt with COVID-19 cases during the period under review. The report was drafted by the employer after it stopped convening OHS Committee and Steering Committee meetings and resorted to utilising internal communication, through *Newsflash*. Labour rejected the verbal report and demanded that the employer convenes a special OHS/Steering Committee to table a written report, which would then be endorsed by the OHS Committee and discussed at the next DBC.

Relocation of DHET offices to new building

The employer indicated that new information is not available as yet on the move. This is owing to the process of identifying alternative buildings after the CSIR did not meet the space requirement. The *status quo* will remain, and an update will be given on developments.

Improvement and recognition of qualifications

A report was given by the employer that it had three pending cases, which were resolved and processed with no backlog. Parties agreed to remove the item from the agenda as they have resolved all outstanding cases.

Absorption of contract workers from Indlela

The employer reported that they have made a submission to the MPSA around creation of permanent posts and to date they did not receive any response to the submission made. Labour demanded that follow ups be made with the office of the MPSA to finalise the absorption of the Indlela. This also includes NSF as there are also employees who have been on contract for a long time. Feedback must be given at the next DBC on progress registered

Policy reviewal

The employer placed the following policies, which are due for review, on the agenda. It was agreed that the task team, which is already in existence, must meet in a bilateral to discuss and make inputs, and then report back at the next DBC. The policies are as follows: Housing; Employment Equity; Code of Conduct; Transfer; Termination of service; Record management; Secondment; Alcohol and substance abuse; Bereavement; and SHERQ.

GENERAL MANAGER