

Update: Dispute regarding matters of mutual interest

Members will recall that a conciliation was held on 1 July 2021 on the dispute declared by the PSA and joined by other unions on matters of mutual interest, i.e. parking facilities, no consultation on the organisational structure, etc. During conciliation, the employer raised a preliminary point that the GPSSBC lacks jurisdiction to conciliate the matter because the dispute was referred prematurely in that section 17 of the Governance rules dealing with facilitation was not followed by labour. Parties agreed to deal with the preliminary point through written submissions.

In preparation for responding to the employer's application, labour contacted the GPSSBC requesting all relevant information on this matter. According to the GPSSBC, labour has not exhausted all internal avenues before declaring the current dispute.

Labour considered all the factors that would persuade the Commissioner to rule in its favour and came to the conclusion that there is a likelihood that the matter would be referred back to the GPSSBC, which will most likely prolong resolution of this dispute. Subsequently, labour unanimously agreed to withdraw the dispute and refer this matter to the GPSSBC for facilitation in the coming Departmental Bargaining Chamber (DBC) scheduled for 20 July 2021. Members will be updated after the DBC meeting on 20 July 2021.

GENERAL MANAGER