

Feedback: KZN DSD Labour Forum meeting

Unsafe working conditions whilst utilising government vehicles

Since 2017, the DSD has experienced a high number of incidents of hijackings and theft of vehicles. These incidents affected service delivery, as some communities and wards were now deemed by employees as “no-go” areas. To date, 59 vehicles have been stolen since 2017. The Head of Department has approved the submission for the installation of tracking devices on all KZN DSD state vehicles. A meeting was held on 30 September 2021 to discuss how this process of installation will take place. In the interim, the Department is encouraging employees to obtain approval to utilise their personal vehicles for official purposes and be re-imbursed on monthly basis for the official distances travelled.

Amalgamation: Glencoe and Dundee service office in Umzinyathi District

The employer indicated that there has been steady progress in the matter but owing to lock-down adjusted level four there was no substantial progress. The District Office has revised the initial planned dates for consultation, which now are proposed as follows:

- The briefing, which will involve labour and Head Office Business Units, will take place not later than 31 October 2021
- A joint briefing of staff by labour is proposed to take place before the end of October 2021
- The submission for the appointment of the Social Work Supervisors for Glencoe Service Office has been prepared and is awaiting approval.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) functions shift from DSD to Department of Basic Education (DBE)

Culminating from the State of the Nation Address (SONA) of 2019, the State President announced the re-configuration of Government Departments. With the proposed reconfiguration of Departments, the ECD function will be transferred to the DBE with the effect from 1 April 2022. A National Proclamation, *Notice 21 of 2021*, was signed off by the State President on 27 June 2021 to give mandate to the two Department to start preparing for the function shift. A provincial Proclamation for the implantation of the ECD Function Shift form DSD to DBE was signed by the Premier on 8 August 2021.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the implementation of the ECD Function Shift between KZN DSD and KZN DBE has been signed by both MECs. To effectively achieve this the DSD and DBE have established special work-teams to facilitate the transfer of the ECD function to the DBE. These work-teams report on progress at various Inter-Departmental meetings (Provincial) and Inter-Provincial (National) meetings.

The following are the deliverables of the Inter-Departmental Task Team:

- The DSD has ring fenced ECD posts that have been identified for transfer from DSD to DBE.
- A total of 70 posts have been ring-fenced that would be 63 permanent posts and seven contract employees have been identified for transfer to the DBE.
- The 60 Social Workers will be made up of five officials from each of the 12 Districts. Affected employees will be identified in consultation with The DBE.
- Three District Coordinators will be identified after consultation with all District Coordinators.
- The seven ECD contract employees have already been consulted and will be transferred with their current agreement.
- Consultation with employees started on 7 September 2021 to 21 September 2021.
- Labour consulted with affected employees from 20 to 30 September 2021.
- The final joint briefing session between labour and the employer with all affected employees will take place from 4 to 7 October 2021.

The next meeting will be on 9 November 2021. For more information, members can contact Mbongeni Mbanjwa at mbongeni.mbanjwa@psa.co.za, 033 392 7600 or 082 880 8966.

GENERAL MANAGER