

Update: Arbitration date set for unfair dismissal case for WF Knobel Hospital Shop Stewards

Members would recall that PSA Shop Stewards were dismissed on 14 April 2021, this after demanding compliance with COVID-19 Regulations, as the employer failed to facilitate the disinfection of the Hospital after COVID-19 cases. The PSA declared a dispute on the unfair dismissal on 5 May 2021 during which the matter could not be conciliated for a period of 60 days which left the PSA with no choice but to refer the matter for Arbitration on 6 July 2021.

Finally, the matter was set down for 7 September 2021 but to the surprise of the PSA, the employer made two applications, namely postponement of the matter and an application to use a legal representative. The PSA vehemently opposes both applications as the matter is not so complex as to warrant the use of legal representatives as the Department has dealt with matters regarding unfair dismissals without the involvement of attorneys. Secondly, the application for postponement is illogical as the Department was aware of the matter since 5 May 2021 when the PSA declared the dispute.

It is unfortunate that the Department wants to use the resources of the State to silence labour. The PSA remains committed to fight these injustices of this nature.

Members will be kept abreast of further developments.

GENERAL MANAGER