

FOR PSA MEMBERS: GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICE SECTORAL BARGAINING COUNCIL
(GPSSBC) - NORTH WEST

17-03-2021

Update: GPSSBC Provincial Chamber meeting - 12 March 2021

Additional workload not on job descriptions

The issue of teachers in various schools giving administrative assistants work that was supposed to be done by them because they were to be measured for PMDS on an annual basis, was taken up by the PSA with the employer. Eventually, the workload was removed from the AAs. The matter has been satisfactorily addressed by the Department of Education and parties agreed that it be removed from the agenda.

Invitation of unions in recruitment process of senior managerial posts

The Department of Education and Sports Development indicated that it is withdrawing from the practice of inviting unions to the recruitment process for senior managers in the province. Following a caucus, labour responded by stating that it does not approve of the Department's position and that posts are reserved for certain individuals who are mostly not from the province. The matter was, however, removed from the agenda since it was only affecting one Department.

OHS compliance and COVID-19 regulations

Departments indicated that they have health and safety committees that incorporate COVID-19 issues, although no indication was provided by six departments that their committees are fully functional and effective. Departments have complied with most of the occupational health and safety protocols of circulars 7, 18 and 27, however, poor ventilation (including air conditioners in some offices), is still a challenge. Departments are following up on the matter. Unions were also invited to make visits to offices to assist where discrepancies are identified. It should be noted that there are departments such as the Office of the Premier, Economic Development and Agriculture that are experiencing intermittent water cuts or water shortages. Contingency plans to address these water supply issues have been instituted such as the provision of water tanks and the release of staff during such situations.

The next meeting will be on 11 June 2021. Members will be informed of developments and are welcome to contact the PSA Provincial Office for clarity.

GENERAL MANAGER