

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING (DHET)**

22-03-2022

## Feedback: Special Departmental Bargaining Chamber-18 March 2022

### Relocation: Head Office to CSIR

The employer reported that they intend to relocate the DHET head offices, from 117-123 Francis Baard and 178 Ndinaye buildings, to CSIR on the 1 April 2022. The employer indicated that the two offices do not comply with the *OHS Act* and there was constant electricity cuts by the municipality. The employer further indicated that they incurred exorbitant costs due to rent payments and parking spaces. The employer decided to seek temporary accommodation for 5 years at the CSIR while waiting for the completion of construction of a permanent building at Swartkop.

The employer submitted the following 4 travelling arrangement options for employees to commute to CSIR for a period of six months:

- Claiming process for travelling expenses incurred during the month. The current tariff to be paid is R4,18 p/km.
- A fixed allowance payment of R1249,82 per month. Such allowance must be approved by Treasury and DPSA.
- Use of public transport such as Tshwane municipal buses and Areyeng busses. The procurement of parking space at the CBD will be considered.
- The department to procure their own bus service and utilize internal drivers for this purpose. The procurement of parking space at the CBD will be considered.

The PSA noted the report and raised a concern that labour was not consulted regarding the relocation plan to CSIR. The PSA further requested that the employer allow labour to consult with its members for inputs before the process could be implemented. The relocation process will result in an inconvenience to employees. The meeting agreed to stop the relocation until the consultation process is exhausted. A task team inclusive of labour will be formed to deliberate on the relocation plan and report to the DBC. The task team will meet on the 31 March 2022

Members are requested to submit their inputs regarding the above-mentioned options to [peter.mngomezulu@psa.co.za](mailto:peter.mngomezulu@psa.co.za) and [motshepe.a@dhet.gov.za](mailto:motshepe.a@dhet.gov.za) by **25 March 2022**, so that the employer could be engaged accordingly at the next task team meeting.

*The PSA wants to take this opportunity to wish all employees who are unwell owing to COVID-19 a safe and speedy recovery.*

GENERAL MANAGER