

Update: Departmental Bargaining Chamber (DBC)

A virtual DBC meeting was held on 9 June 2022 and the following matters were discussed:

OHS compliance and COVID-19 regulations

The employer reported that all precautionary measures are taken by the Department to ensure that the workplace is safe. Existing health and safety protocols remain in place. Employees continue to work 100% from home and only work from office when necessary. Labour noted the report, however, expressed concerns about 4th floor building on the west wing, which is constantly unhygienic and is not taken care of. The employer indicated that it was not aware of the matter, and it will be reported to the facilities for urgent intervention. Feedback will be provided in the next meeting.

Filling of posts

The employer reported that there are still 36 vacant posts available, and approval has been received from the Executive Authority. It reported that the Treasury has approved an additional 146 new posts. The PSA noted the report but expressed concerns about slow progress in filling of funded posts with a direct impact on already understaffed personnel. The employer indicated that the cause for slow progress is owing to the Human Resource Section being under-capacitated but committed to prioritise finalising the recruitment process.

Organisational structure review

The employer indicated that it received inputs from the Minister and submitted these to the DPSA for high-level consultation. It further reported that there is a slight change on the new structure, which is clustering of some posts. The significant change on the new structure is moving from 210 to 350 posts and the new structure will be in line with 2012 structure. The PSA noted the report and requested the employer to share the new structure with labour for inputs. The employer committed to circulate the new structure to all parties immediately.

Moving to new building

The employer reported that it is busy finding a new building and is working together with the Department of Public Works. It indicated that finalisation of this process depends on the completion of the new structure. Labour noted the report but questioned if the employer had already identified a particular building. The employer indicated that it will report in the next meeting if the building has already been identified.

Members will be informed of developments.

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