

Feedback: Departmental Bargaining Chamber meeting – 14 March 2022

National Advisory Council Innovation (NACI) structure restructuring

The employer reported that the process to restructure NACI structure was stopped. The NACI structure would be incorporated into the larger restructuring process of the Department, which would be aligned to the White Paper on Science And Technology portfolio. A task team, inclusive of labour, will be formed and will report to the DBC regularly basis. Members will be informed of developments.

Supply Chain Management (SCM) Directorate restructuring

The Exco decided that the SCM must be reorganised to improve capacity to render service delivery in terms of the Treasury framework. There were several gaps identified in the SCM system and processes. Capacity constrains remain a challenge. A task team would be formed to oversee the process of reorganising the SCM and provide progress reports to the DBC. The comments previously made that SCM was restructured owing to audit findings was withdrawn by the employer. Members will be informed of developments.

Guidelines: Observer status

The employer developed a set of guidelines of observer status for labour during the recruitment and job evaluation process. Only one labour representative will be allowed in each session. The guidelines will be reviewed as and when a need arises.

OHS compliance of building

The employer reported that a contravention notice was issued to the Department by the Department of Employment and Labour owing to the lack of ventilation, leaking roof, and cracks in the basement. The Department requested an extension to fix the identified areas of non-compliance. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure was requested to intervene and upgrade the building accordingly. The process to assess ventilation is underway and a report will be presented at the next task team meeting. Members will be informed of developments.

OHS compliance and COVID-19 regulations

A COVID-19 Steerco meeting was convened on 17 February 2022. The revised return-to-work plan was presented. The Steerco meeting agreed to increase the occupancy rate from 20% to 50% from 22 March 2022. GEMS will continue to facilitate the voluntary vaccination process.

Vacancy reports

The employer reported that 18 posts were advertised in February and three are to be advertised in March 2022. The report on compensation of employees and the prioritisation process would be presented at the next DBC meeting for further deliberation.

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

GENERAL MANAGER