

KZN Department of Social Development Labour Forum meeting - 1 March 2022

Unsafe working conditions whilst driving government vehicles

The progress has been made by the employer since the last meeting for the installation of tracking devices, during December 2021 and January 2022. The service provider successfully installed 39 vehicles with tracking devices from Head Office. This was done as the way of evaluating the efficiency of tracking devices before moving to install vehicles at clusters. eThekweni North is next, where 64 vehicles will be fitted with tracking devices. The technicians will prioritise those areas and district with the high rates of car hijackings. The PSA was disappointed with the slow pace at which the employer is moving to install tracking devices.

Implementation of Scheme B (Use of private vehicle for official purposes)

The Committee met late in December 2021 and 192 vehicles were approved for usage of Scheme B. Employees are already using their privately owned vehicles and claim from the employer for all kilometers travelled when performing their duties.

Early-Childhood Development (ECD) function shift from Department of Social Development (DSD) to Department of Basic Education (DBE)

All employees who were affected by this movement were consulted, a total of 63 employees (60 are Social Workers three are Social Worker Supervisors) confirmed willingness to be transferred to the DBE as well as seven contract workers who are supporting the ECD function will be transferred. Two posts that became vacant as result of resignation will be transferred to the DBE to carry the recruitment process. The employer issued letters of transfer to all employees affected, including Social Workers, by 28 January 2022. Files of all affected employees (Social Workers) have been audited accordingly by the employer. The Executive addressed all affected Social Workers at a meeting on 2 March 2022 in Durban.

Transfer: Vuma and Esicabazini Youth Academies from NPO administration to Department

The project was successfully completed by the employer. Employees were absorbed to the post establishment of the Department last year. Work on the proposed organogram for the Youth Academies is work in progress and once the approval is obtained the employer will implement it accordingly. The orientation of all employees on policies and conditions of service was conducted for both Centres on 31 January 2022.

Proposed relocation of staff from Vulindlela Service Office to Dambuza and Emaswazini One-Stop Centre Development

The employer met with affected employees on 23 February 2022 to brief them about this intention to relocate staff to an interim workstation whilst working on renovations at Vulindlela Service Office. According to the employer, this move was triggered by the report that stated that park homes were no longer in a good and safe state for operations. The employer has approached the Department of Public Works to consider replacing park homes as a short-term measure whilst working on the long-term plan, which is to build fixed office space. This movement will affect about 20 employees, which through consultation will establish the exact number of employees to move to Dambuza and eMaswazini. The employer will develop a project plan to guide the process to be followed and labour and all affected stakeholders will be engaged. The employer is anticipating that this process of the movement of employees or relocation be finalised by 1 April 2022.

The next meeting will be on 3 May 2022.

For more information, members can contact Mbongeni Mbanjwa at mbongeni.mbanjwa@psa.co.za, 033 392 7600/9 or 082 880 8966.

GENERAL MANAGER