

Feedback: Departmental Bargaining Chamber (DBC) - 4 March 2022

OHS compliance and COVID-19 regulations

The employer reported that the 80%-occupancy rate will be implemented under alert-level 1. Employees with co-morbidities will be required to submit medical reports to continue to work remotely. There were two COVID-19 positive cases reported in the past three months. The R300-data allowance was cancelled. The PSA noted the report and requested that a comprehensive risk assessment report and health and safety measures be presented at the next Steerco meeting.

Vacancy report

The employer reported there were ten vacant posts for a period of three months and 16 posts vacant for more than six months. The PSA noted the report and requested a breakdown of vacant posts according to salary levels and directorates.

Acting in higher positions

The employer reported that the acting in higher position policy was drafted but the employer decided not to implement it. The employer opted to implement the standard operating procedures instead. The PSA objected to the decision and requested the employer to provide reasons why the policy cannot be implemented. The meeting agreed to defer the matter to the special DBC meeting scheduled for 22 March 2022 and deliberate the matter further.

Departmental committees

The employer reported that labour was not allowed to participate in the Ethics and Risk Committee and the Bid Adjudication Committee. The PSA noted the report and requested the reasons for the decision. The meeting agreed to defer the matter to the special DBC on 22 March 2022 to deliberate on the matter.

Office accommodation

The PSA raised a concern about the unsafe conditions at the National Office building. The employer was not ready to respond to these concerns and it was agreed that the matter be deferred to the special DBC meeting on 22 March 2022. The employer will present a progress report from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure regarding the condition of the building. 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