

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATING BARGAINING COUNCIL (PSCBC)**

24-03-2022

Feedback: GEHS Special Working Committee Meeting

Hybrid meeting held on 23 March 2022 where the employer tabled the progress report on the GEHS.

Members will recall that the housing allowance dispensation is regulated to the Determination and Directive on Housing Allowance for Employees in the Public Service and PSCBC Resolution 7/2015 and subsequent Resolutions that deals with this benefit. In essence, the overarching aim of the Determination and the Resolutions are to facilitate home ownership for the public servants through the facilitation of accessible housing loans and finances.

The employer's presentation highlighted the following key areas:

- There are still 203 670 employees who are eligible for homeowners' allowance but not in receipt of the allowance and 210 475 employees are receiving allowance as tenants.
- GEHS Housing Access Loan is available to qualifying government employees who would like to buy or build on communal or family land with, or other properties but are unable to obtain a bond. The maximum loan of R350 000 will be payable over a shorter period unlike your traditional bond which is 20 years.
- The number of employees who receive a housing allowance as homeowners has increased from 352 103 in 2015 to 741 797 as of 28 February 2022 .
- A MOU concluded with Department of Human Settlements and the National Housing Finance Corporation to facilitate affordable housing finance solution in pursuit of home ownership.

Labour noted the employer's report and raised a concern that the employer has reduced the working committee to a reporting committee where the employer processes are reported without the proper engagement and involvement of the committee. The report could therefore not be engaged on particularly that the matter is part of the agenda of the Public Service Summit that will take place next week. The matter will be taken up with the principals.

PSA Shopstewards are urged to assist members particularly those who qualify for the home allowance and are not receiving it. Further, assistance must also be afforded to applicants from rural areas that are not aware of the options to get 'the permission to occupy' from the traditional leaders which can be utilised for a Housing Access Loan to build a proper house.

Members will be kept abreast of further developments.

GENERAL MANAGER