

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA (STATS SA)**

17-03-2022

Update: Departmental Bargaining Chamber

A Departmental Bargaining Chamber was held on 16 March 2022 and the following matters were discussed:

State of Disaster Covid-19 Management at Statistics South Africa

The employer reported that following DPSA Circular 04 of 2022 on return to work, a departmental circular was issued on 1 February 2022 to inform employees that from 1 March 2022 all staff members will return to work at 100% capacity. The employer further reported that employees with underlying conditions are encouraged to apply to the executive authorities to continue working from home. So far, 72 employees from Head Office and 42 from regions are awaiting approvals from the executive authority. Employees who tested positive for COVID-19 will continue isolating to curb the spread of the virus. The PSA noted the report and questioned the employer's readiness to receive employees. The employer indicated that all logistical arrangements are in order and that there will be an induction process that will take place to appraise employees on their return to work.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Project

The employer tabled the matter and highlighted that this is a process of moving from paper collection to a mobile system. This is a pilot project for implementing organisational changes and the plan is submitted to Exco. The employer is yet to identify which sections will be affected by this process. Labour expressed concerns about the lack of consultation from the employer. Labour indicated that it was supposed to be part of the first phase of this process from inception before it could be tabled at Chamber level. The employer noted labour's concern and responded that the process is still at an early stage and committed to invite labour to the next meeting. Parties agreed that the matter will remain on the agenda.

Review: Departmental Policies

The employer tabled the following policies and requested that these be deferred to the Policy Task Team for further discussion:

- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Job Evaluation Policy
- Transfer and Secondment Policy
- Leave Policy
- OHS Policy
- Fraud and Corruption Policy

- Whistle Blowing Policy
- Publication and Data Access Policy
- Telephone Policy
- Debt Management Policy
- Working Hours Policy
- ICT Policy
- Business Continuity Policy
- Sexual Harassment Policy
- Policy on the Management of Precautionary Suspension/Transfers
- Policy on the Management of Arrested/Incarcerated Employees

Labour noted the tabling of the policies and emphasized that the employer should commit to attend task team meetings. The employer committed to attend these meeting to ensure that no further delays is experienced.

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