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FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICE SECTORAL BARGAINING COUNCIL (GPSSBC)**

21-11-2023

Feedback: Special Council meeting – 17 November 2023

Transfer of employees in Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Environmental Affairs

Cabinet decided in 2016 to sell various plantations in Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, and Limpopo. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Environmental Affairs was compelled to place and transfer employees to other provincial departments. The land of the plantations was sold to private entities.

In total, 594 employees were affected by the transfer process. The DBC established a task team to facilitate the placement of affected employees. Parties embarked on a roadshow to consult with affected employees. These employees were placed in various provincial departments in clinics, hospitals, schools, and various government departments. Labour raised a concern that the employer did not have jurisdiction and authority to place and transfer affected employees to various provincial departments without a proper collective agreement. Since the transfer process involved more than one department, the matter was escalated to the GPSSBC.

The Council meeting on 17 November 2023 agreed that the matter would be removed from the agenda of the DBC, and a task team would be established to process transfers properly. The Council would endeavour to solicit more information and conclude a collective agreement that would administer the conditions of service for affected employees. The Council resolved to put transfer processes on hold until the task team has completed its processes.

The Council will further engage with the PSCBC to establish the scope of the matter. A Council task team meeting will be held within seven working days to consolidate the issues and map out a way forward.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website (www.psa.co.za), send an email to ask@psa.co.za, or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER