

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS (DHA)

08-02-2024

What is happening at DHA Head Office? Feedback: Head Office Consultative Forum

Parking space at Hallmark building

As previously reported to members, an agreement was reached between the employer and labour that all employees will be allowed to apply for parking at the Hallmark building, irrespective of rank or position. Employees whose applications are successful will be allocated parking at a subsidised amount (*i.e.*, for a parking space that costs R700, the employee may pay R137.50 and the Department will pay the balance). Since the agreement was reached in 2022, the employer has been delaying issuing a circular to officially announce the decision and give effect to it. The PSA expressed disappointment at the employer's unreasonable delay in issuing the circular and implementing the agreed decision. At the last Head Office Consultative Forum (HOCF) meeting held in December 2023, the employer made a firm commitment to issue the circular before the date of the next meeting. However, it is disappointing to note that such a circular has still not been issued. A follow-up was made by the PSA and the employer is expected to comply with the agreement before the end of February 2024.

Safety concerns at auditorium

The PSA remains adamant in challenging the employer on its non-compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, which compels it to provide a healthy and safe working environment for all employees. In 2021 the employer relocated the permitting team employees from the 21st floor to the auditorium. The reason cited for moving these employees was that the employer wanted to comply with COVID-19 regulations, which required a social distance of 1.5 m. However, conditions in the auditorium have deteriorated to unacceptable levels. The PSA is of the view that the employer should move the employees back to the 21st floor. According to the employer, the space on the 21st floor is no longer sufficient to accommodate the employees, files, *etc.*, and will look for an alternative space where it can move the employees. It was agreed that the employer should come to the next HOCF meeting with a full mandate on the matter to enable parties to find amicable grounds on the matter.

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.

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