



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

06-11-2025

Update: Free State PSCBC Coordinating Chamber Special Meeting - 30 October 2025

The PSA participated in a special virtual meeting of the Coordinating Chamber of the PSCBC for the Free State Province (CCPFSP) to discuss urgent matters relating to the Government Employees Housing Scheme (GEHS), particularly the termination of housing allowances in the Department of Education.

The following key points were discussed:

Termination of GEHS allowance: Department of Education

Organised labour raised concerns regarding the Department's termination of the housing allowance, noting that collective agreements are silent on the withdrawal of savings. The PSA requested that the employer must clarify the authority and rationale behind the decision. The employer stated that the circular was issued in line with the 2018 DPSA Directive, giving effect to PSCBC Resolutions 7/2015 and 1/2018, and applies to all departmental officials.

The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) clarified that the benefit is a housing allowance, not a subsidy, and acknowledged the Department's compliance efforts. However, it proposed further engagement with the Province to address issues such as:

- The notice period and compliance requirements under clause 4.2.8 of the Directive.
- Auditor-General findings and required remedial actions.

Proof of occupancy and fairness of punitive measures

Labour requested that the cut-off date be postponed, the circular suspended or reversed, and that consultations be held with the DPSA before any implementation. The employer agreed to engage the DPSA by 7 November 2025 and confirmed that no terminations would take effect after 31 October 2025 pending discussions.

Slow implementation of GEHS

The DPSA presented updated data, showing a slow uptake of the housing allowance amongst eligible employees. Labour and employer parties welcomed the presentation and requested that it be shared with all Chamber parties.

The PSCBC General Secretary commended the constructive discussions, emphasising that GEHS-related matters should be addressed in all chambers to promote home ownership amongst public servants.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER