

FOR PSA MEMBERS: OFFICE OF HEALTH STANDARDS COMPLIANCE (OHSC)

08-04-2025

What is happening at OHSC?

Dispute lodged regarding relocation process to Centurion

Members are aware that the employer tabled the relocation process from the current building to Centurion, after employees indicated that Centurion is not an ideal place owing to multiplicity of challenges. Without addressing employees' concerns, the employer demonstrated elements of arrogance and pushed for this move without considering employees' welfare. Subsequently, the PSA objected to the proposal for the move, including bus transportation to the Centurion office building, which is 26 km from the Pretoria CBD. The demand of "working from home" and transport allowance of R3 500 was rejected by the employer, leading to the PSA reserving its rights at the bargaining forum meeting on 31 January 2025. The PSA gave the employer the benefit of doubt and continued to engage outside the bargaining forum with the aim of reaching an amicable solution to the impasse regarding the relocation process.

Subsequent meetings were held with the Board of Directors and the Minister of Health on 27 and 28 February 2025 respectively to resolve the matter. The meetings did not provide a solution that satisfied both parties. Instead, the Minister proposed that the management must look for an alternative mode of transport to Centurion and cost it for a period of 24 months. The management was tasked to conduct an audit on how many employees would be interested in using the bus transportation to Centurion. Members mandated the PSA to object to the proposal of bus transportation as the employer engaged in bad faith.

Members, through the OHSC community, requested the PSA to proceed with the dispute process to force the employer to reverse the unilateral decision to go to the Centurion office building. Members maintained that the decision was unreasonable and unfair. The move to Centurion would cause a lot of inconvenience to employees, especially with children schooling around the Pretoria CBD. Members demanded that the entire process of relocation be stopped, failing which the PSA must lodge a dispute with the CCMA.

On 7 April, the PSA lodged a dispute of mutual interest with the CCMA. The PSA will embark on industrial action should the employer fail to resolve the matter at the conciliation meeting. Picketing rules will be established as soon as the matter is set down for conciliation. The employer has already been notified that the current relocation process is objected to in totality and the PSA will forge ahead with the dispute as indicated at the last bargaining forum meeting.

Members will be informed of further developments.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website, send an email to <u>ask@psa.co.za</u>, or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

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