



**FOR PSA MEMBERS: PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATING BARGAINING COUNCIL (PSCBC) - EASTERN CAPE**

17-07-2025

## Feedback- CCPECP (Coordinating Chamber for PSCBC - Eastern Cape Province) Special meeting

### **The only item that was discussed was the Bisho Public Service strike of 1991**

At the Special CCPECP meeting held on 13 June 2025, the 1991 Bisho public service strike was discussed. It was argued that former Ciskei government workers had participated in the strike as part of the broader national rolling mass action by the Mass Democratic Movement. Although these workers were reabsorbed into the civil service after the 1994 elections by the new Eastern Cape Provincial Administration, most lost pension years. This was due to their return being processed as re-employment rather than reinstatement.

Labour proposed forming a task team to engage further on the issue. The Employer acknowledged the 1991 strike and resulting dismissals, which led to Resolution 6 of 1991 that allowed for the re-employment of affected workers. Employees had been given a specific date to return to work, but by 1994, many had moved on, some returning to school and others joining different pension funds.

A second requirement was that employees had to indicate under which clause of the *Public Service Act* they had been dismissed. This was a safeguard, as not all dismissals were strike-related; some were for misconduct. The Employer stated that the Provincial Treasury instructed all departments to refer any isolated dismissal cases to the Office of the Premier. No payments were made to the GEPPF. Instead, qualifying individuals received stipends to prepare for re-entry into the workforce after being away for three years.

The Employer objected to forming a task team, arguing that the chamber lacks jurisdiction. The Council General Secretariat advised that the matter is currently before Parliament, where labour is already represented. To avoid duplicating processes, the task team proposal was not supported. Labour then proposed that the matter remain a standing item on the CCPECP agenda for regular reporting by the Employer and the Council. Members will be kept informed of future developments.

Reuben Maleka

GENERAL MANAGER