

Feedback: STATS SA Bargaining Forum meeting - 6 March 2026

OHS compliance

The employer reported that 148 employees were identified to attend OHS training by 30 March 2026. The provincial OHS representatives will also attend training as soon as procurement processes are concluded. The employer further reported that the OHS committees were active and operational. The PSA noted the report and urged the employer to submit a comprehensive report about the conditions of provincial and district office buildings at the special DBC meeting scheduled for 27 March 2026.

Office closure and relocation of employees

It was previously reported that the process to relocate various offices across provinces and the relocation of employees was still under way. The established task team is facilitating the relocation process so that employees can be placed in a safe and conducive workplace. The employer reported that the task team report will be submitted at the special DBC meeting scheduled for 27 March 2026. The PSA noted the report and urged the employer to share the written task team report before the scheduled meeting.

Implementation: Recognition of Improved Qualification (REQV)

It was previously reported that ten REQV applications were outstanding. The employer reported that all ten applications were implemented and paid accordingly. The PSA welcomed the progressive report. Parties agreed to remove the matter from the agenda.

Closure of office during festive season (Circular number 11 of 2026)

Members are aware that the PSA tabled the matter owing to employer's failure to consult and communicate the dates for closure of the offices during the 2025 festive season. The employer acknowledged the omission and reported that it has consulted labour about the closure of office in the 2026 festive season. It was agreed that the office will be closed from 21 to 31 December 2026. A circular was issued to all employees in this regard. The PSA welcomed the progressive report. The matter was removed from the agenda.

Transfer committee

It was previously reported that operations and functioning of the transfer committee were put on hold until the job evaluation process of identified posts was concluded. The employer reported that the 57 identified posts were job evaluated and graded accordingly. The transfer committee will resume with functions and process all outstanding transfer applications. There are already 80 Data Capturers who applied to be transferred to the Statistics Operations and Provincial Coordination division. The PSA noted the report and urged the employer to convene the transfer committee meeting before the end of the financial year and process all transfer applications submitted in 2025. The PSA further urged the transfer committee to develop clear terms of references and criteria to process applications in a fair and transparent manner.

Introduction: Subsidised Vehicle Scheme

The PSA previously demanded that the employer should cancel the lease of vehicle scheme and replace it with a subsidised vehicle scheme. The PSA argued that the lease of vehicle scheme did not align to the service delivery model of the Department. The employer reported that it was unable to implement the subsidised vehicle scheme owing to budget constraints. It maintained that it was waiting for the Department of Transport to implement a Transversal Vehicle Scheme for all government departments. The PSA demanded that the employer must provide the financial statements, which will outline the cost comparisons and implications of both vehicle schemes. Parties agreed to discuss the financial implications at the special DBC meeting scheduled for 27 March 2026.

Filling of funded vacant posts

Members would recall that the PSA invoked section 17 of the GPSSBC governance rules because the employer refused to share the vacancy report with labour. A facilitation meeting, held on 18 February 2026, resolved that the employer will share the information pertaining to the breakdown of funded vacant posts and prioritised posts. The employer shared the list of all funded vacant posts and committed to providing a break-down report at the special DBC meeting scheduled for 27 March 2026. The PSA acknowledged the progressive report and urged the employer to share the written vacancy report before the scheduled meeting.

Implementation: Overtime payments

Members are aware that the employer failed to implement overtime payments for Survey Officials who worked during weekends and holidays. The employer requested labour to submit a list of affected employees. The employer acknowledged receipts of the list and requested for time and space to resolve all grievances. The employer committed to providing a progress report at the special DBC meeting scheduled for 27 March 2026.

Attack and unsafe working environment for Fieldworkers

It was previously reported that the PSA lodged a formal complaint about the unsafe working environment for Fieldworkers. The employer committed to addressing the matter and providing a progress report. Unfortunately, the employer was not ready to provide an update and progress report on the matter. It requested that the matter be deferred to the special DBC meeting scheduled for 27 March 2026. The PSA noted the report and urged the employer to share the written progress report before the scheduled meeting.

Members will be informed of developments.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER