

## Feedback: Departmental Bargaining Chamber (DBC) meeting - 1 March 2024

### Recognition of Improved Qualifications

As previously reported to members, a list of improved qualifications was concluded at the DBC, signed by all parties, and further approved by the Director-General. The list was submitted to the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) for concurrence. The employer reported that during the quality assurance process by the DPSA, it was indicated that the identity numbers of the qualifications on the list had expired. The list was sent back to the Department of Transport for correction, which was done and submitted back to the DPSA. Feedback from the DPSA is awaited with a letter of concurrence. The PSA urged the employer to start with administrative processes and developing an application form as well as the prescreening of applications whilst awaiting the DPSA's concurrence.

### Occupational health and safety (OHS)

The PSA has been raising concerns regarding the quality of water in the Forum building. The employer continued to insist that the water is safe for consumption. However, the employer has now admitted that the water is not healthy. A test was conducted on the water and results are awaited, which the PSA requested the employer to share with labour. As an interim measure, the landlord is providing 5-liter bottles of water to employees for drinking. The PSA submitted that the bottles being provided are not enough and the employer should find another alternative measure to provide sufficient drinking water to employees whilst working on a permanent solution of ensuring that safe drinkable water is supplied to employees in the building. The employer reported that an OHS-hygiene survey was conducted, and a comprehensive report of the survey will be shared with the PSA. Further concerns were raised by the PSA relating to the deteriorating status of boardrooms in the building. Furniture in boardrooms is old and no longer user-friendly. Some air conditioners are old and not in proper working condition. The employer noted the concerns and indicated that it is looking at procuring new furniture for some of the boardrooms and that air conditioners are being serviced every month. Parties will engage further on this matter in the next meeting.

### Network challenges in building

The PSA previously raised concerns regarding network challenges in the building. The employer reported that the process of enhancing network capacity was underway to address all network challenges. The network was either slow or unavailable in some parts of the building, which made it difficult for employees to remain connected whilst working and to make and receive calls. After several engagements at the DBC

with Information, Communication, and Technology management, it was reported that all network challenges have now been resolved. Members are urged to inform the PSA if there are still concerns relating to network connectivity in their respective offices.

Members will be informed of developments.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website ([www.psa.co.za](http://www.psa.co.za)), send an email to [ask@psa.co.za](mailto:ask@psa.co.za) or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

Reuben Maleka  
GENERAL MANAGER