

Feedback: Stats SA Departmental Bargaining Chamber

Occupational health and safety (OHS) report

The employer reported that an audit was conducted at the Klerksdorp office, and it was discovered that there were water disruptions. The office was closed, and employees were requested to work remotely. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is already on site to fix the water problems. The employer further reported that OHS representatives from Isibalo House and District offices were nominated to attend training. The training programme would include first aid, fire prevention, and other OHS-related training. The procurement process for the training is still underway. The PSA noted the report and raised a concern that the certificates for OHS representatives have expired and urged the employer to renew these as a matter of urgency. The PSA will continue to participate in the OHS committee and monitor compliance to ensure that employees are safe in the workplace.

Office closure and relocation of offices

The employer reported that the offices in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape will be closed to reduce office space as per the directive from National Treasury. A relocation task team, which included labour, was formed. The lease agreement at the two offices in the Free State expires on 31 March 2025 and employees will be relocated to the nearest office accommodation. The lease agreement of the eThekweni and uGu district offices in the KwaZulu-Natal region would also expire on 31 March 2025 and employees will be accommodated at the provincial office and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure offices. The Xhariep district offices will be closed by 31 March 2025 and employees will be accommodated at the Kopanong Thusong Centre. The PSA noted the report and urged the employer to consult with affected employees about the logistical arrangements through the relocation task team.

Recognition of improved qualification

The employer reported that three out of five applications that were submitted have been finalised. The two outstanding applications are still in process and will be finalised before the end of the financial year. The PSA noted the report and urged the employer to fast track the payment of outstanding applications.

Organisational Employment Equity plan

The employer reported that it only received the nominated representatives from the PSA to form part of the Employment Equity (EE) committee. The first meeting of the EE committee will be convened as soon as all parties have submitted names of their representatives. The PSA noted the report and raised

concern about the lack of women representation in senior management positions. The PSA urged the employer to fast track the composition of the committee so that EE plan could be implemented as a matter of urgency.

Filling of vacant funded posts

The employer reported that there were seven vacant posts that were advertised under the current reporting period. The recruitment process is still under way to fill those posts. The employer further reported that 95 critical posts have been identified and will be prioritised to be filled in the coming financial year. The PSA noted the report and requested the employer to share details of the 95 identified posts. The employer requested to consult with its principals before the details of the 95 posts could be shared with labour. A report will be submitted at the next DBC meeting.

Members will be informed of developments.

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

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GENERAL MANAGER