

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DoJCD)

15-10-2021

Feedback: Departmental Bargaining Chamber meeting

Maintenance Officers

Members will recall that this item was tabled by the PSA, demanding a transfer of Maintenance Officers from the Department of Justice (DoJ) to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). Maintenance Officers were also frustrated by their reporting lines, as they were sometimes subjected to report to Administrative Officials who have no direct involvement in the operations of a Maintenance Officer. As members are aware, this matter proceeded to facilitation and parties could not reach an agreement on the interpretation of the *Act*. The PSA subsequently considered other alternatives to address this matter whilst still waiting for a legal opinion which will be solicited by the employer. The PSA suspended its legal process after engagement with the employer and brought forward other alternatives to address the matter, including a demand for the employer to create a new Senior/Chief Maintenance Officer position in all provinces. This will ensure that Maintenance Officers report to the relevant authority and create a standard reporting line. In addition, it will ensure that there is career pathing and opportunities for progression. Parties agreed in principle to have further discussions on this proposal at Chamber level as the relevant official was not present owing to health reasons. The matter will be expedited and discussed in the next Chamber meeting.

Adjournment of meeting

The meeting was adjourned in the middle of the discussion on other matters as the employer was not adequately prepared. The employer representatives came to the meeting unprepared to discuss items that have been long outstanding on the agenda. The meeting was collapsed owing to the employer's incapacity and the PSA demanded that the Secretariat should invite the Director-General to the meeting to represent the Department as the representatives have no mandate to engage on any of the issues on the agenda.

The meeting will be rescheduled for 4 November 2021. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER