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Feedback: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Labour Forum meeting

The EMS Labour Forum held a meeting held on 9 June 2021 where the following issues were discussed:

COVID-19 Response Team

Members will recall that the employer excluded some EMS members on the list, which meant that only a selected few would receive 100% overtime as they are regarded to be COVID-19 Response Team. The practice was deemed to be discriminating to other employees. Labour requested that all EMS officials must be included on the list, however, the employer agreed to disband the Team and will appoint a new team effectively from 1 September 2021. Employees who are interested to be included in the team will have to apply and such applications will be invited in due time.

13-hours payment

The employer reported that 75 EMS officials took the employer to court and the matter could not be entertained because it is *sub judice*. Court processes must be allowed, and the Department's legal representatives will deal with the matter. The department will be guided by the outcome of the process.

Grade progression in EMS

The employer reported that the names of qualifying employees have been submitted to Treasury, awaited approval.

Vacant positions

The employer reported that Treasury did not approve the request for 40 Intermediate Life Support and 25 Station Managers positions as requested by the EMS Management in February 2021. The PSA was not happy with the response and indicated that it has a bearing on members who are already acting without receiving an acting allowance and the PSA will instruct the members to stop acting in these positions. Subsequently, the employer undertook to resubmit the request for those positions to Treasury with additional motivation.

EMS officials who want to join the PSA or members who need further information can contact the PSA representatives, Prince Ramukhithi at apramukhithi@gmail.com / 079 031 8227 or Pfuluwani Meregi at meregipfuluwani@gmail.com / 076 827 9120.

Members will be updated on developments.

<u>GENERAL MANAGER</u>