

Feedback: Meeting with Mopani District Management

A meeting took place on 6 August 2021 to discuss the shift of Early Childhood Development (ECD) from the Department of Social Development (DSD) to the Department of Basic Education (DBE). Surprisingly, the DSD made a presentation indicating that in the Mopani District, the DBE requires 10 Social Worker's (SW's) and 2 Administrators from Finance to move with the ECD's function. The current scenario is: Giyani – 149 ECD's, 2 SW's needed; Phalaborwa - 77 ECD's, 1 SW needed; Tzaneen- 284 ECD's, 3 SW's needed; Letaba- 160 ECD's, 2 SW's needed and Maruleng- 105 ECD's, 2 SW's needed. The PSA requested an organogram on how the Social Worker's will report in the DBE, the DSD did not provide it however they responded that it's in the pipeline.

The issue of hiring supervisors was challenged, with DSD indicating that they cannot provide DBE with Supervisors, since they also need more Supervisors. Furthermore, they are not sure if the DBE will be in a position to employ Supervisors. The DSD will only release two Supervisors at the Provincial Office who are currently dealing with ECD's to supervise 47 Social Workers. The numbers are however not complying with the supervision framework ration of 1:6, meaning that 6 Social Workers must be supervised by 1 Supervisor.

The PSA argued that the number of Social Worker's identified to move with the ECD's to DBE is inadequate and does not equal the number of the ECD's. To ensure proper service delivery, more Social Workers will be needed. The lack of an organogram and the fact that the DBE was not in the meeting to clarify some issues, made it very difficult for labour to fully understand this matter, however an upcoming meeting, expected to be held on 19 August 2021, will unpack some of the matters that could not be clarified today.

For further information, to join the PSA or report workplace challenges, contact PSA Shop Stewards: Nkhensani Maluleke at Nkhensani.ny@gmail.com or Locan Bonisiwe Sibiyi at Sibiyi.locs@gmail.com or the PSA Provincial Office on (015) 295 0500.

Members will be updated on developments.

GENERAL MANAGER