

FOR PSA MEMBERS: PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTORAL
BARGAINING COUNCIL (PHSDSBC)

29-10-2021

Feedback: Meeting held between Labour, the MEC and HOD of the Free State Department of Health

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Senior Executive of the Department of Health and strengthen the relationship between unions and the Department of Health in the province. The MEC formally introduced the new HOD Mr Godfrey Mahlatsi to the unions.

The following issues were also discussed as concerns raised from labour:

Department's Failure to Implement Arbitration Awards, Settlement Agreements, and Chamber Resolutions

The PSA raised a concern and strongly objected to the department's lack of commitment in implementing arbitration awards, settlement agreements, and chamber decisions. The PSA also raised the issue of the low response rate from the department when enquiries affecting employees are sent to officials.

Community Health Workers (CHW's)

The following issue which affects CHW's were raised and discussed:

- The Department of Health unilaterally amending the conditions of service agreed upon for CHW.
- The department indicated that the matter will be investigated and corrected immediately.
- The department's refusal to enrol qualifying CHW's at the Provincial Nursing School to improve their qualifications.

The matter is currently being discussed at the National Bargaining Council and the department agreed to provide feedback.

Terminating the contracts of CHW's who reached the age of 60 without consultation.

The MEC acknowledged that the department acted incorrectly as the District Managers had no right to terminate those contracts. The MEC instructed that all those employees whose contracts were terminated based on age, must return back to work without further delay.

Grade Progression

The PSA raised a concern regarding the slow pace in the implementation and processing of grade progression. The department agreed to provide the PSA with a full report on the implementation of grade progression by 17 November 2021.

Members will be kept informed of any further developments.

VIVA PSA

GENERAL MANAGER