

Feedback: Special PSCBC meeting

Clarity from GEPF: PIC confirmation of 30% ownership of SAA consortium partner

Labour referred the employer and the GEPF to recent media reports on investments made by the PIC in a company called *Harrith* as a consortium partner of SAA. Labour questioned whether GEPF funds were utilised for this investment and where the decision was taken to obtain such shares. The GEPF responded that it understood the concerns raised and clarified that no funds from the GEPF was utilised by the PIC for this investment. Upon enquiry from the PIC, the GEPF also indicated that it was informed that although it was announced in the media, that it is also not aware of the transaction. There is however, a history between the PIC and *Harrith* on the matter, but the GEPF assured Council that the PIC may be a shareholder but it has not utilised GEPF funds for this investment.

Labour proposed that Council urgently establishes a working committee with terms of reference to be drafted by the General Secretary to Council. This committee, will amongst others, also look at investments made with GEPF funds. Members will be updated as information is received.

Annual leave extension

Noting that the country is in the midst of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and that hospital admissions are thus increasing, labour raised that it is creating a challenge for public servants to again utilise their annual leave as required. Currently, the operational needs of the Public Service and the country are receiving priority and may result in members forfeiting their leave as a result. Labour is therefore demanding that consideration be given to extend the utilisation of annual leave.

The employer indicated that given its experience of COVID-19 last year, it does not believe that there is a necessity to again extend the utilisation of vacation leave this year as it was a once-off agreement last year. It believes that current leave regulations make enough provision for instances where employees are not able to take leave as a result of operational requirements. Labour further argued on the matter and that there are indeed challenges even with staff shortages that are creating challenges with taking normal leave. Labour, however, noted the response and the rejection of the proposal by the employer. Labour reserved its rights on the issue.

GENERAL MANAGER