

## Feedback: DSTI Departmental Bargaining Chamber (DBC) meeting - 15 November 2024

### DSTI building and acquisition of interim office space

Members are aware that the DSTI building will be renovated. The employer committed to sourcing temporary accommodation for employees. The employer reported that the tender process for the renovations of the building is underway. The employer further reported that the tender will be advertised after the revised procurement strategy is approved by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Bid Adjudication Committee. The DPWI has finalised the acquisition of interim office space at CSIR Campus. Buildings 41 and 42 will accommodate all employees on a rotation basis. The date of moving to the interim offices will be communicated three months in advance. The PSA appreciated the report and urged the employer to share the project execution plan soonest.

### Departmental vacancies

The employer previously reported that there were 111 vacant funded posts recorded. In the current reporting period, the employer indicated that there are 115 vacant positions, which translated to 23% vacancies. A total of 56 critical posts were identified but owing to budget constraints the Department will only be able to fill ten priority positions. The Department received concurrence from the DPSA to advertise two positions in November 2024 and the other two remaining posts will be processed. A submission for concurrence by the Minister of the DPSA for the remaining six positions will be submitted. The PSA noted the report and urged the employer to fast-track the filling of vacant posts as employees will experience burn out owing to non-filling of positions.

### DSTI structure review

Members will recall that the employer previously reported that it has commenced a process to review the current organisational structure. It further reported that it is in a process of revisiting the proposed structure with the newly appointed Executive Authority as per the directive from the DPSA. The employer reported that the meeting took place, and the Executive Authority requested a follow-up meeting that will take place in due course. The employer committed to provide an update once consultation is concluded. The PSA noted the report although there is concern that the same Department is unable to fill positions because of the financial situation.

## December closure

Members will recall that the employer previously presented a proposal for Departmental closure during the holiday season for discussion at the DBC. The five-day office shutdown from 23 December to 31 December 2024 was approved by the employer. The employer also stated that on 20 December 2024, the Department will close at 10:00. Members who are scheduled to execute their duties on 23 and 24 December owing to operational requirements are encouraged to do so, as the Department will permit them to continue. An internal communication in this regard has been released.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website, send an email to [ask@psa.co.za](mailto:ask@psa.co.za), or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

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