

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION (DWS) - LIMPOPO**

19-06-2024

Feedback: PSA and Management Meeting – 14 June 2024

The PSA in Limpopo met with the Department of Water and Sanitations' (DWS) provincial management on 20 May 2024 to deal with issues that affected the smooth running of the structure in the execution of their constitutional mandate. Although the PSA had every intention of addressing these issues cordially, the behaviour of the Deputy Director: Strategic Support made it impossible for the meeting to address issues presented by the PSA. The PSA leadership experienced some intimidation, especially the Chairperson of the PSA as the meeting was disrupted, when the PSA was about to present their issues. He indicated that as the senior manager, he had the right to disrupt the meeting.

The meeting could not yield any positive outcome as the manager representing the office of the provincial Head of Department unreasonably threw his weight around using his position to disrupt the meeting. This occurred when he was requested, by the PSA Provincial Chairperson, to execute his primary and legitimate strategic support and secretariat tasks, which was the focal reason he attended the meeting on that day. He was speaking on behalf of the employer without delegated authority and tried to smuggle in the issues pertaining to a sister union in the bilateral meeting which was requested by the PSA. The PSA did not take kindly to the behaviour demonstrated.

The PSA leadership engaged the Director General to express their concerns which necessitated a meeting with the Director: Labour Relations from Head Office. Subsequently, a meeting was arranged on 14 June 2024, where the committee met with the Labour Relations Director to highlight the discomfort and frustrations of working with the Limpopo office as the employer does not respect the PSA's union leadership. The PSA called for a retraction and written apology on the utterances as mentioned above. The Director undertook to escalate the matter to the management and engage the officer complained about and will update the PSA soon.

Members will be kept informed of the further developments.

Employees who wish to join the PSA can contact Lawrence Muvhango on 082 880 8995 / lawrence.muvhango@psa.co.za or Paulina Moloto on 082 880 8957/ paulina.moloto@psa.co.za.

Reuben Maleka

GENERAL MANAGER