



REPORT NO. 24 OF 2015

PUBLIC SERVICE CO-ORDINATING BARGAINING COUNCIL MEETING

The PSCBC met on the 23rd of September 2015, and the following items were on the agenda for deliberation:

1. Address by the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF)

This item was prompted by an outcry from Public Service employees that their pension benefits seemed to have been reduced, and Labour wanted clarity on this issue.

It was reported by the board that there is actuarial valuation of the GEPF every second year whereby actuarial factors are computed to ascertain that pensions are not eroded by market factors. This has been done for some time, and the assessments have often produced higher pension values than the lesser values that the actuaries submitted to the board during the last valuation. The board asserted that, on average, during the past four evaluations, the pension amounts have shown significant increases. Such valuations are pertinent to resignations rather than retirement since retirement benefits, in the GEPF, are defined.

Labour advised the board to seriously start consulting whenever the evaluations are conducted to facilitate proper information sharing so that Public Service employees are not left in the dark. Members are also advised that the pension calculator on the GEPF website will be activated soon.

2. Government Employees Housing Scheme (delayed implementation of increases)

The Employer indicated that information still needs to be collected from employees for proper implementation of the GEHS increases, and they have already formulated a form for employees to fill in to speed up the process.

These forms are being routed to institutions and departments for employees to fill in. After a member has completed the form, it will take about fifteen days to implement – and the new Public Service and Administration Minister will be signing the directive soon. The Employer also apologised for the delay.

3. Government Employees Medical Assistance

GEMS representatives were supposed to make a presentation, but they apologised for not being able to attend the PSCBC meeting. It was decided that a task team will be established to address the challenges facing GEMS.

4. Establishment of the Border Management Agency (BMA)

The border management function in South Africa is shared by various government departments, as demonstrated by the Department of Home Affairs in a presentation it made to Council. They maintain that it is time for the State to establish a single entity, under national government, to adopt an integrated approach in effectively overseeing our borders.

This will have an impact on the Home Affairs Department, the SA Police Service, the SA National Defence Force and other departments that are currently involved. Border management will be further dealt with at the following Council meeting.

– Issued by the Office of the General Secretary