



Public Service  Pulse

## PUBLIC SERVICE CO-ORDINATING BARGAINING COUNCIL (PSCBC) REPORT NO 13 OF 2016

7 December 2016

We can report that Council met on 6 December 2016 to deal with the following issues:

### Medical Assistance (Resolution 2 of 2015, Clause 6)

The employer reported that the Medical Price Index (MPI) is calculated on a twelve-month basis and that the increase will be 8,8%.

We pointed out that the Government Employee Medical Scheme (GEMS) has announced that its medical aid rates would be increased with a figure of 15% in 2017. We then posed the question as to whether the employer or employees would be expected to cover the difference between the rate increase and the MPI figure, whi.

The employer explained that there is no specific mention of GEMS increases in the collective agreement, and that only the MPI figure is dealt with.

Noting this, we requested clarity on whether the employer would be extending the date for GEMS members to choose between different options. The current closing date was 30 November 2016.

The employer responded by pointing out that the date had been extended to 7 December 2016, stating that a circular could only be

published once the extension was pronounced to labour.

The employer made the undertaking to publish said circular on 6 December 2016, and Council undertook to publish same on its website.

We raised our concern that GEMS seemed to become progressively more expensive. We reminded the employer that the purpose of the establishment of GEMS was specifically to provide affordable medical aid services to our members. We called for an urgent wholesale review of GEMS.

### Government Employees Housing Scheme (Resolution 7 of 2015)

We requested clarity from the employer regarding the actions taken against departments that fail to implement PSCBC Resolution 7 of 2015.

The employer reported that a meeting had been scheduled with the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) for 8 December 2016, making a firm undertaking that we would receive a comprehensive report on the matter early in the new year.

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