



REPORT NO. 5 OF 2015

Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC) Meeting

The PSCBC Special Council met again on the 30th of January 2015 to deal with the outstanding matters. In this meeting, parties continued to deal with two outstanding matters as outlined below:

Government Employee Housing Scheme (GEHS)

Labour indicated that it finds it difficult to engage with the Employer, when the Employer has proposed two options without prejudice. To recap: Option 1 is to increase the housing allowance to R1500 only for employees who own houses and are still paying for those houses, while employees who do not own houses will get R900; Option 2 is that the housing allowance be increased to R1400 for levels 1 and 2, R1200 for levels 3 to 4 and R1000 for levels 5 to 10.

On Option 1, the allowance of R1500 will increase by the percentage of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in 2018 for employees who own and are still paying for houses, while employees who do not own houses will continue to receive their R900 allowance – but with no CPI increase.

Labour requested that the Employer table a firm offer on one of the options offered on the 28th of January 2015. The Employer indicated that it will table a firm offer at the next meeting.

Labour pointed out that its position on the clause dealing with post-retirement housing support for employees stands. The clause reads as follows: “*Employees who retire from the public service shall continue to receive housing allowances, and have access to the advisory and support services of the GEHS, provided they are enrolled with the GEHS.*”

The Employer also indicated that it is standing firm on its position on the same clause. The Employer's clause reads as follows: *"Employees who retire from the public service shall continue to receive, and have access to, the advisory and support services of the GEHS, provided they are enrolled with the GEHS."*

The area of difference is around whether employees are to continue receiving their housing allowances after retirement.

Danger Allowance

Parties engaged on a few issues regarding the draft agreement, and have agreed to the signing of the agreement. The PSCBC will circulate the agreement for signing by parties.

The date for the next meeting will be communicated by the PSCBC.

– Released by the Office of the General Secretary