



Enquiries: Frikkie De Bruin
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17 March 2020

Dear Panellist,

RE: URGENT COMMUNICATION ON PSCBC PROCESSES: COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

The spread of the, Coronavirus (COVID-19) has and continues to grow exponentially and is of extreme concern to the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC).

The PSCBC after a lengthy discussion, in a special meeting on the 17th March 2020, took a decision to scale down all activities with immediate effect.

The PSCBC, acknowledges the risk of exposure to infections during processes. The PSCBC agrees with social distancing as a method of minimising the risk of infections.

The PSCBC also duly considers the following:

- The directive issued by the President of the Republic of South Africa, Honourable his Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa;
- The Guidelines for the containment of the Coronavirus in the Public Service, issued by the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA);
- The directives and guidelines issued by the Department of Health on dealing with COVID 19; and
- The protocols issued by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases on combating COVID 19.

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All correspondence must be addressed to the General Secretary of Council

The following will therefore, be applicable to dispute resolution processes:

- All contact processes involving face-to-face interaction with parties are hereby suspended;
- All matters set down between 19 March 2020 up to and including 14 April 2020 are hereby cancelled;
- All new referrals pending set down dates will only be scheduled after 14 April 2020, subject to suspended or cancelled matters receiving preference in being rescheduled;
- No persons will be permitted to walk into the PSCBC offices for purposes of enquiries and serving/filing any process and/or documents. The PSCBC will only accept referrals received through other non-contact methods such as email or fax, as contained in Rule 7 of the PSCBC Rules (Resolution 4 of 2005).
- The SLA and/or Fee Structure Policy clause 6.5.1 Cancellations/ Postponements will apply to the abovementioned postponements as follows:

“6.5 CANCELLATIONS/ POSTPONEMENTS

6.5.1 The following shall apply to every postponement or cancellation of an event by Council:

*6.5.1.1 A Panellist shall have the discretion to charge up to **100%** of his/her full fee for an event that has been **confirmed in writing** by the Council and where the event is cancelled / postponed **by Council** in writing, within **three** working days before the date set for the hearing.*

*6.5.1.2 A Panellist shall have the discretion to charge up to **50%** of his/her full fee for an event that has been **confirmed in writing** by the Council and where the event is cancelled / postponed, in writing within **four to five** working days before the date set for the hearing.”*

The PSCBC will continue to monitor the situation actively and take appropriate measures or additional precautions if necessary. Further developments will be communicated as the situation unfolds.

Enquiries may be directed to the General Secretary, Frikkie De Bruin on email address: frikkie@pscabc.org.za; Dispute Resolution Manager, Petunia Bhengani petuniab@pscabc.org.za; or Senior Officer Dispute Resolution, Koketso Mocheke koketsom@pscabc.org.za

Regards,



Frikkie De Bruin
General Secretary