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CIRCULAR

31 May 2016

RE: REINSTATEMENT of SERVICES – CENTRE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION
Effective 01 June 2016

Purpose: The purpose of this circular is to inform the industry on the reinstatement of the Centre for Dispute Resolution (CDR) services effective from 01 June 2016.

Background: Following the press release in response to the NEASA Industry alert dated 16 May 2016, the MEIBC issued a circular on the 19th of May 2016 informing the Industry on challenges resulting in the CDR services being put on hold. The following were highlighted in the Circular:

- The Council is experiencing severe budgetary constraints due to increased service pressures while there has not been an increase in levies since 2011.
- This was further fuelled by the non-collection of levies for the period of April to July 2015 during the hiatus period.
- As a result this led to the services provided by Tokiso our dispute resolution service provider' services being put on hold due to an escalating debt which the council is unable to service while fulfilling its monthly contractual obligations to them.
- The debt (estimated at around R4m) emanates from about 720 excess cases that Tokiso had to process outside their contractual obligations in the period April to December 2015 due to a number of factors including parties requiring matters to be scheduled for a day or more, unjustified postponements, the com/arb process that is not favoured by parties, lack of strict scheduling by the CDR staff, etc.
- Judging from the pace of deliberations with parties to the Council, indications are that the situation might come back to normality around the last quarter of this year.

Following continuous discussions on the above matters The General Secretary of The Council is pleased to announce that The Centre for Dispute Resolution is available to service the industry as from 01 June 2016.

Issued by the MEIBC
31 May 2016

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