



## JOINT STATEMENT FROM MEIBC AND TOKISO



**To: MEIBC staff, the Industry, Commissioners and other interested parties**

**05 April 2016**

The MEIBC is a significant labour market institution, and the largest bargaining council in the private sector. It covers over 300 000 employees and over 10 000 Employers.

One of the statutory roles of the bargaining council is to provide a dispute resolution function. For this purpose, the MEIBC is CCMA accredited, which enables it to resolve all party and non-party disputes in the industry. The MEIBC has fulfilled this function effectively. Since 2003 Tokiso, an accredited private agency, has assisted the MEIBC in this function including the provision of CCMA accredited commissioners.

Over the last two weeks there has been a disruption in the MEIBC's dispute resolution service. We appreciate that this has impacted on the lives of employees and employers alike.

The reason for the disruption is that Tokiso has withdrawn its services due to substantial amounts outstanding from the MEIBC. Tokiso has made this decision with a heavy heart because it understands the impact this has on the industry.

The MEIBC is urgently addressing the outstanding invoices. It is also looking at means to cut costs in general without this impacting on its statutory commitments. This has been necessitated because:

1. The Minister did not extend the agreements for four months in 2015, resulting in the MEIBC using its reserves to continue servicing the industry during this period; and
2. The MEIBC has not received a levy increase since 2011, including the dispute resolution levy.

The MEIBC has made proposals in relation to the levies, and it trusts that parties will bring wisdom to the table in addressing the challenges the MEIBC faces. The MEIBC is confident that it will come out stronger once these challenges are behind it.

The dispute resolution service is likely to face some disruptions until such time that the MEIBC is able to meet the costs of the service. The MEIBC and Tokiso are committed to work together to ensure minimal disruptions and to find a solution. Part of the solution is to find innovative ways to provide a more efficient, cost effective and user friendly dispute resolution service to the industry.

We thank you for your support during these difficult times and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Regards

Thulani Mthiyane  
General Secretary  
MEIBC  
thulanim@meibc.co.za

Tanya Venter  
CEO  
Tokiso  
tanya@tokiso.com