

'Dept must own up to error in pay'

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RETIRED Department of Public Works inspectors say the department needs to own up to a mistake it made in changing the pay grades of public works inspectors more than eight years ago.

The retired inspectors previously in the employment of the Department of Public Works, said they declared a dispute in November 2009 with regard to Public Works not converting them to a relevant Occupational Specific Dispensation (OSD), in relation to engineering and related occupations.

An OSD is a salary model developed in an attempt by government to recognise scarce skills — in this case it provides a salary model for engineering and related functions.

Previously, the Pietermaritzburg inspectors — many of whom have engineering qualifications — complained that they were being paid erroneously, the same as ordinary administration staff, whose educational requirements to do their work are much lower than are required to be a public works inspector.

The department however claimed it is being guided by the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) in relation to pay and grading of employees.

"General Public Service Sector Bargaining Council Resolution 9 of 2009 excludes works inspectors as a category of staff falling

within the OSD," the department said.