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# Extension of Public Service Commission scope worries PSA

**MAHIKENG MAIL – MAHIKENG - The Public Servants Association (PSA) last week expressed extreme about the proposed extension of the Public Service Commission's (PSC) scope to include local government functions without the allocation of adequate resources.**

This move, while well-intentioned, risks undermining the PSC's effectiveness and credibility. Currently, the PSC has many entities and is struggling with fiscal consolidation, leading to reductions in head counts and decreases in budgets for goods and services.

This has weakened the PSC's capacity and capability, impacting its ability to effectively oversee and improve public service delivery. Increased investment in personnel, infrastructure, and operational resources is necessary to strengthen the PSC's capacity. In addition, PSC recommendations are seldom implemented by the department with no consequences and failure to address issuing, disempowering the PSC.

Operation Vulindlela II to rejuvenate local municipalities is commendable, but is doomed for failure if the PSC is expected to fulfil its constitutional mandate to include this level with constrained resources. The PSC is currently struggling to timeously finalise cases affecting

the public service. Extending its mandate without additional funding, personnel, and infrastructure will overburden the PSC, leading to inefficiencies and compromised service delivery. Ineffective oversight owing to resource limitations will negatively impact the quality of services provided to the public, further eroding trust in government institutions.

A comprehensive plan that includes resource allocation, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement is essential for the successful extension of the PSC's scope. Whilst the PSA supports the idea of enhancing oversight at local government level, it is imperative that this initiative is backed by adequate resources. Without this, the PSC will be set up for failure, and the intended benefits will not be realised.

The PSA urges National Treasury to ensure that any extension of the PSC's mandate is accompanied by the necessary resources to enable effective implementation.