

## **PSA threatens wage strike**

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PSA threatens wage strike 2019-08-16 04:40:34 Minister of Public Service and Administration, Senzo Mchunu, Source: Twitter / National PDSA - Larson Thebe The Public Servants Association (PSA) is threatening a nationwide government shutdown, if talks over vacant government posts and threats of retrenchment are not resolved by the end of Friday. The PSA is meeting Minister of Public Service and Administration, Senzo Mchunu, over the concerns. Some of the issues being discussed include the 120 000 government vacant posts and threats to retrench over 30 000 workers. "He must explain to us why the 120 000 vacant posts have not been filled and when are they filling them. And we also want the Minister to withdraw sentiments that they have put forward to retrench 30 000 people. This has put our members under tremendous stress. If government will not come with clear timelines as to when these demands will be met, there will be a government shutdown soon," warned Tahir Maepa, PSA Deputy General Manager. Maepa also slammed the 120 000 vacancies in the public service. "How do you even venture into retrenchments or cut down 30 000 public servants, when you're already under capacitated with 120 000 jobs? Government is speaking in forked tongues, they must be honest with the public. They keep on saying the public service is bloated, and now we realise that there are so many vacant positions in the public service," said Maepa. He also dismissed statements by Minister Mchunu that the vacant posts have not been filled due to the transition during the elections, highlighting that "these positions have been there for years...the Minister cannot tell us this is a new problem." Maepa also warned that the vacant posts have compromised the public service as their members are unable to give proper services to the people. "Our institutions are falling apart. We are unable to meet the demands of our people. We have public servants who are doing multiple jobs for other people because of these vacant posts. It's not only vacant positions, but equipment is another problem. It is good enough to say the hospital has a doctor, but a doctor can only diagnose. If there's no pharmacist, it's as good as nothing," Maepa said. The PSA has got more than 235 000 members in the public sector