

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **COVID-19: PSA appalled by conduct of SASSA's CEO**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                             communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) that represents more than 5 300 employees at the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) is shocked by the Agency's handling of cases where employees tested positive for COVID-19.

An employee at the SASSA Regional Office in Johannesburg tested positive for the virus on 14 April 2020. The employee informed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chairperson of the Regional Basic Educational Committee (RBEC) who attended the meeting along with other staff members on 14 April 2020. The CEO, Chairperson and employee decided to keep the test result secret and did not inform other employees who attended the meeting and with whom she was working until 14 April 2020.

The PSA believes that SASSA failed to protect employees from possible infection and hiding the information is tantamount to a criminal act. SASSA only now decided to send the affected employees home and allows them to work from home. According to the PSA's information, the Regional Office where the infected employee was working, has still not been cleaned and decontaminated. The PSA condemns the CEO's conduct and calls on the Minister of Social Development to urgently act against the managers who wilfully contravened the COVID-19 Regulations.

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