MEDIA RELEASE **COVID-19: PSA calls for use of drone technology across Limpopo**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) commends the Greater Tzaneen Municipality in Limpopo for effectively engaging technology in its efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Municipality is using a drone fitted with powerful speakers to broadcast messages related to COVID-19 to residents. The drone can also assist in providing real-time information. The method is effective in monitoring the lockdown and social-distance compliance. It furthermore assists in maximising the utilisation of resources. Information derived from the drone, for example, assists the SA Police Service to monitor compliance with lockdown regulations and has resulted in the closure of an illegal tavern in Tzaneen that could have been fertile ground for transmission of the virus.

The PSA that represents more than 20 000 public servants in Limpopo, believes that the use of the drones in other districts in the province will enhance the security of Health workers who are conducting mass household screenings for the virus in villages. The use of drones assists particularly in largely inaccessible areas and Limpopo, being a mostly rural province, will benefit should this be implemented in all districts.

With the technology being relatively inexpensive, the PSA calls on other Limpopo Municipalities to follow suit. The PSA will also advise the Provincial Disaster Advisory Forum to ensure implementation of the system throughout the Limpopo.

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