

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>COVID-19: PSA outraged by lack of union consultation</b>
<b>DATE</b>	25 March 2020
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged by the glaring lack of consultation with unions regarding measures to make provisions for public sector employees to work remotely during the COVID-19 lockdown period to ensure business continuity and the maintenance of critical services.

The PSA, representing more than 240 000 public servants, is furthermore deeply disturbed by the fact that whilst labour and the employer are still locked in consultations in the PSCBC on various measures, the Minister of Public Service and Administration and other politicians deemed it fit to hold a premature media conference. This one-sided action makes a mockery of the consultation process and undermines labour during this critical time when public servants are expected to keep the country running. Statements by the Minister that labour was consulted are thus untrue as no agreements have been concluded.

The PSA, despite having expressed support for the national lockdown, pointed out that the undermining and ignoring of labour's critical inputs create tensions that can be ill-afforded. Unions fulfil a critical role in ensuring the health and wellbeing of employees and cannot be disregarded in this manner.

The PSA advises the Minister that it is of paramount importance for government to ensure that the imminent salary increase for public servants is honoured and implementation directives are published. This matter, rather than premature unfounded statements, is deserving of the Minister's urgent attention.

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