



**MEDIA RELEASE COVID-19: PSA warns Presidency regarding lack of PPE**

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**EMBARGO** None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents more than 240 000 public sector employees, and is the majority union at the Presidency, is concerned by the lack of non-compliance in respect of PPE protocols especially the wearing of cloth masks. As we are all aware, the President announced that South Africa will be moving to COVID-19 Alert Level 1 as from 21 September 2020. The move to Alert Level 1 does not, however, mean that the risk of COVID-19 is over.

The normal process when moving to a lower level is to obtain guidelines from the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) and then consult with labour on measures to put in place to protect employees against COVID-19 infection. The Presidency has compromised the safety of staff by not providing adequate PPE's for employees. Employees currently do not have masks, instead the Presidency is deviating from processes as required by Regulations, by opting to using petty cash to buy only surgical masks. It is expected that the highest office in the country should be setting an example to the rest of the Public Service.

The absence of critical safety protocols in the Presidency is exposing employees to possible infection. The units that are affected are Auxiliary Services, Transport, and Information Technology.

The PSA is currently engaging the Department of Employment and Labour to request that an Inspector be sent to conduct an investigation regarding this non-compliance by the Office of the Presidency as required by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*, Department of Health, Department Employment and Labour Regulations and DPSA Circulars.

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