MEDIA RELEASE	**Covid-19: PSA welcomes announcement on three-week national shutdown but warns DPSA**
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa of a three-week shutdown in an effort to combat the spread of Covid-19. The virus has already infected 402 South Africans and this 21-day lockdown will go a long way in ensuring that the virus does not spread to vulnerable communities. As much as this action will impact on an already weakened economy, it is necessary in order to save lives.

The PSA calls on Government to ensure that those workers who have to work during the shutdown, including health workers, pharmacists, police officers, the SA National Defence Force, Correctional Officials and SASSA employees, are issued with the necessary protective gear to ensure their safety. The PSA salutes all workers who will be responsible for rendering essential services for their sacrifices during this difficult time. The Union also calls on all citizens to remain calm and abide by the announced measures amidst assurances that as manufacturers that essential resources will be available, including food, medicines and hygiene products.

The PSA, however, cautions the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) not to exploit the situation by not honouring the three-year PSCBC wage agreement. The PSA will remain alert to ensure that salary increases for public servants are implemented in line with the agreement. Failure to comply, will force the PSA to take whatever measures necessary to ensure that public servants receive their increases.

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