MEDIA RELEASE	**COVID-19: PSA calls on SASSA Limpopo to provide employees with protection**
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) was shocked to learn that the Regional Executive Manager of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) in Limpopo instructed employees go out and register beneficiaries from 3 to 15 April 2020 without the necessary protection against COVID-19 infection.

The employees were instructed to report to all pay points in Limpopo without having masks, gloves and hand sanitizers. This instruction is not only irresponsible but undermines efforts to flatten the curve of infections and Covid-19. It furthermore poses a risk to the health and safety of these employees, their families and beneficiaries. Failure by SASSA management to comply with health and safety standards could have dire consequences. All employers are obliged to comply with COVID-19 Regulations issued by the Department of Employment and Labour and as well as the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. Forcing employees to work without protection is unlawful.

The PSA calls upon SASSA management to comply urgently with COVID-19 Regulations and the *OHSA.* The PSA is also exploring interventions, including litigation to enforce compliance by employers. Members of the public who disregard the Regulations are facing arrested and the law must therefore also apply to non-compliant employers who expose their employees.

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