

**MEDIA RELEASE:** **COVID-19: PSA condemns Public Service manager's actions**

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**EMBARGO** None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 240 000 public servants, noted with disappointment the way certain managers are dealing with issues related to COVID-19.

An employee at the Gauteng Office of the Premier tested positive for the virus and forwarded his valid medical certificate to his manager. The manager subsequently on a public social media site expressed the view that certain medical doctors are issuing false medical certificates, declaring patients to be COVID-19 positive. He also stated that "People don't want to go to work, now they claim to be positive".

A significant number of PSA members are battling this disease at home with no support from employers and even experience harassment from managers. Gauteng is currently the epicentre of the disease in South Africa and public servants are exposed to infection daily. It is disappointing to see that despite the circumstances, employees as exposed to insensitive manager who offers them no support and practice a managerial style of harassment and discrimination against infected employees.

The PSA addressed a letter to the Director-General of the Gauteng Premier's Office, demanding that disciplinary action be taken against the manager. The PSA has also advised the employees to provide her medical practitioner with the details of this incident to enable the medical practitioner to take appropriate action.

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