

MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19: PSA warns that public servants should not be rushed back to work

DATE: 21 September 2020

EMBARGO: None

ENQUIRIES: communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) has advised government departments not to rush recalling all employees back to work despite with the country moving to COVID-19 Alert Level 1.

The PSA, which represents more 240 000, public servants has warned that a rush to recall employees to work will result in cancelling the costly gains achieved during previous alert levels. Although there is a decrease in the infection rate, the country is still at the height of the pandemic. Several departments still do not have the necessary infrastructure to ensure that employees maintain social distancing and adhere to other health protocols.

Service departments such as the Department of Home Affairs and SASSA do not have the necessary office space to accommodate all staff and maintain social distancing. This is compounded by the fact that increasing numbers of members of the public are also utilising the same space. The PSA regards the Department of Basic Education's recall of all teachers back to work as irrational without considering the implications for all parties involved.

The PSA urges government departments to wait for a Directive on the recall of employees to be issued by the Minister of Public Service and Administration instead of rushing to recall employees.

END