

MEDIA RELEASE **Freedom Day: PSA warns about emerging threats to new-found freedom**

DATE 26 April 2019

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) honours the annual commemoration of Freedom Day that will be celebrated by South Africans on 27 April 2019, whilst warning against emerging threats against South Africans' new-found freedom.

“As a non-politically aligned trade union, the PSA celebrates the successes of the organised labour movement that contributed to the birth a democratic South Africa in 1994. South Africans can celebrate 25 years of democracy with freedom of movement and residence, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression. The commemoration of the day is, however, an opportunity to reflect on what freedom really means and the roles played by various stakeholders to ensure that freedom is realised and protected as intended. For the PSA, as representative Union of more than 240 000 public-sector employees, freedom of association is especially celebrated. This ‘enabling’ right entitles workers to form and join workers’ organisations of their choice to promote common organisational interests without fear of victimisation and discrimination,” said PSA General Manager, Ivan Fredericks.

The PSA, however, warns that there are new threats posing a real and present danger of eroding South Africans’ fragile freedom. “To be free has different connotations. It is therefore important to also acknowledge that there are new challenges that must be addressed. Crime, corruption, economic decline and crumbling infrastructure are some of the new enemies that stand to erode the hard-won freedom.

“Workers must be vigilant and be ready for a new battle of protecting this freedom. The PSA stands ready to be the vanguard of speaking truth to power, exposing theft of workers’ benefits and holding those responsible accountable. The PSA therefore salutes all workers who, amidst these circumstances, serve communities to ensure that South African citizens can benefits from their Constitutional right to freedom,” said Mr Fredericks.

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