

MEDIA RELEASE **Freedom Day: Public servants' wellbeing of paramount importance**

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As South Africa commemorates Freedom Day on 27 April 2024, the Public Servants Association (PSA) stands in solidarity with public servants across the nation, recognising their dedication to provide citizens with services, despite a multitude of challenges.

In 2024, Freedom Day marks the 30th anniversary of South Africa's historic transition to democracy, ending decades of apartheid rule. Whilst the country celebrates the triumph of freedom and equality, ongoing challenges faced by public servants at the forefront of service delivery cannot be ignored. Public servants are at the core of ensuring the smooth functioning of essential services that benefit all South Africans. Yet, they continue to grapple with financial burdens, including low wages, high living costs, and inadequate support. Increased electricity and fuel prices will have a detrimental impact on the livelihoods of all workers, including public servants who are stretched thin as they endeavour to fulfil their duties in understaffed facilities.

A firm commitment is required to address these challenges as these not only impact on the livelihoods of public servants but also their morale and ability to maintain effective service delivery. It is unacceptable that public servants must bear the brunt of economic hardships and be made scapegoats for corruption and maladministration whilst still being expected to fulfil crucial roles in delivering services.

The PSA acknowledges the sacrifices made by public servants. In addition to advocating for their rights and interests, the PSA recognizes the importance of providing support to public servants facing financial difficulties. The PSA also urges government to take significant steps towards ensuring a safe and conducive environment for its employees.

The well-being of public servants is of paramount importance in carrying South Africa towards economic recovery and ensuring citizens' access to services. On Freedom Day, the PSA urges government to prioritise the holistic well-being of public servants and uplift their socio-economic status.

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