



MEDIA RELEASE **Fuel prices: PSA calls for urgent intervention by Minister of Minerals and Energy**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is against the continued increases in fuel prices as such increases are not comparable with the income levels of the country.

Expensive fuel, coupled with soaring electricity costs, will have a further negative impact on strained workers and small businesses still reeling from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest increase will have a detrimental impact on households that are already struggling to make end meet, noting the country's shocking unemployment levels. In addition, consecutive increases in the repo rate are contributing to struggling citizens' financial woes.

The PSA is further extremely concerned about the impact of such increases on 2022-wage negotiations for public servants, which is due to commence shortly. Noting that public servants have not received real wage increase for the past two years, the scheduled negotiations will be critical in ensuring public servants of a decent income that will allow them to keep pace with soaring cost-of-living expenses aggravated by the endless excessive petrol price.

Government needs to urgently consider other modalities for determination fuel prices, which have become unaffordable for the broader society. The PSA therefore calls for sanity to prevail and for the Minister of Minerals and Energy to urgently curb the escalating fuel prices to prevent an untenable national economic crisis.

END