

MEDIA RELEASE **Government reshuffle: PSA disappointed by failure to address inefficiency and revitalise Cabinet**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is disappointed that the much-awaited Cabinet reshuffle by President Cyril Ramaphosa failed to address government inefficiency and non-performance.

The Ministers whose departments are collapsing under on their watch were left untouched. The Minister of Police is allowed to continue whilst crime and lawlessness are soaring, and criminal walk the streets of South Africa. Recent crime statistics showed that murders have increased in almost all provinces and women live in fear of being killed. The Minister of Health has achieved little since taking over from his predecessors and there can be no justification to keep him whilst the health system is collapsing. Health facilities are operating on skeleton staff, security is compromised with employees being attacked, and buildings are dilapidated with dysfunctional equipment. The Minister should have made a way for someone with solutions to address these issues.

South Africa's performance in Education is even lower than in poor countries with less resources for reading and literacy. Most learners are subjected to dilapidated school infrastructure with fewer educators and overcrowded classes. A study by *Progress in International Reading Literacy Study* found that more than half of South Africa's primary schools lacked books, libraries, and infrastructure, thus limiting progress in reading literacy for Grade 4 learners. Higher Education is also facing crisis after crisis and millions of rand are disappearing through corruption at the NSFAS, SETAs, and universities, yet the relevant Minister is left to continue.

The President's decisions create the impression that there are no other competent persons available to ensure efficiency. The President keeps recycling non-performers like a coach who does not know his players. In addition, the President is bloating his office with various ministers in the Presidency, which may add to confusion and unproductivity. The adding of deputy ministers is condemned as it does not support government's position that employee cost must be contained. These deputies will be employing their own staff, which will be prioritised over critical vacancies in government. The addition of ministries creates further problems as government has kept the apartheid ministerial handbook that affords ministers many luxurious benefits. This confirms that government has money to achieve its own selfish programmes whilst pleading poverty when it comes to real salary increases for its employees who are battling to cope with the rising cost of living.

The promotion of Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga demonstrates appreciation for a person who has been with the Department of Transport for a considerable period and served under various ministers. The appointment of Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa as Minister of Electricity will be monitored to see if there is any improvement in the disabling loadshedding.



The PSA welcomes the appointment of an experienced Minister in the Department of Public Service and Administration after the tenure of an acting Minister who opted to attack collective bargaining and reverse democratic gains for public servants. The PSA urges Minister Noxolo Kiviet to restore the trust deficit between labour and government and protect collective bargaining as a fundamental right for workers. The PSA is always prepared to engage any minister who has a desire to address the plight of workers rather than being insensitive to these workers' rights and interests. The PSA also calls on the Minister to ensure that there is meaningful engagement with her office to address the chronic shortage of staff, abuse of power with employees being suspended for prolonged periods, the capacitation of government departments, and the absorption of cleaners, community health workers, and security officers.

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