

MEDIA RELEASE **International Women’s Day: PSA calls for empowerment**

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On International Women's Day, as the world celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements by women around the globe, the Public Servants Association (PSA), reiterates its pledge to protect and promote the workplace rights and interests of female public-sector employees.

The PSA, which represents more than 148 800 female public servants, embraces the Day as an important checkpoint on the challenges South African women continue to face. In the workplace, South African women are still struggling for recognition in a male-dominated environment. Women have made tremendous contributions towards the Union’s sustainability over the past century and it behoves the PSA to intensify its efforts towards ensuring the empowerment of women in the workplace and in leadership positions. Women should be optimally trained and empowered to make a greater contribution in the public service, including deployment in key management positions.

South African women are grappling with a range of negative factors, which impact on their employment prospects. These include poverty, high school drop-out rates amongst female learners for a variety of reasons, and extremely high levels of gender-based violence. The PSA calls on all stakeholders to intensify the root causes that are robbing especially female youths from opportunities that will empower them and give them a true reason to celebrate International Women’s Day in future.

The PSA pays homage to all South African women who play their role in sustaining families, communities and the entire country. The PSA further encourages women to explore and utilise the opportunities presented to them to empower them as respected leaders in South African workplaces and society.

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