

MEDIA RELEASE **Media retrenchments: PSA calls on Government to assist**

DATE 21 July 2020

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 240 000 public sector employees, calls on Government to financially support the media industry to prevent large-scale retrenchments in the sector.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the media was utilised as an effective means of mass communication and remains instrumental in education and information sharing in especially this regard. Allowing retrenchments to take place, will not only contribute to rising unemployment and increased reliance on Government for social assistance, but will curb the media's abilities to fulfil crucial functions in society.

The PSA is aware of the constraints faced by Government to rescue the economy and deal with the impact of COVID-19 but calls on Government to carefully consider the impact of its decisions regarding bailouts in the interest of the country and institutions tasked with upholding constitutional democracy. Institutions such as the SABC serve as the sole source of information to many citizens during this testing time. In addition, the national broadcaster is also conducting online learning to assist thousands of learners who are unable to attend schools because of the pandemic.

The PSA appeals to Government to value the role of the media that has constantly served the country's best interests and provide financial assistance to rescue the industry from collapse.

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