



**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **Non-payment and exploitation of Foreign Language Interpreters: PSA calls on Department of Justice to investigate**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is calling on the Department of Justice and the Minister to investigate allegations of ill-treatment and the exploitation of Foreign Language Interpreters at various courts in KwaZulu-Natal.

Reports indicate that these Interpreters have not been paid their salaries or travel expenses for more than three months. According to reports, Foreign Language Interpreters face many challenges. Some have been on contract for more than ten years and some have no signed contract. There are inconsistent dates for the payment of salaries and travel claim are left unpaid for months, making planning and budgeting extremely difficult for these workers. In addition, foreign nationals are not allowed to join unions, with allegations of management threatening to dismiss them if they do.

The PSA has given the Department five working days to investigate these serious allegations on the violation of workers' rights and intervene to stop the exploitation of employees. These workers must receive all the benefits associated with their contract of employment, with a clear date for salary payments and all outstanding claims being paid to them within 30 working days.

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