

MEDIA RELEASE	Parliamentarian salary increase: PSA condemns Government's double standards
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is utterly appalled at the Government's stance towards its lower-level employees after members of Parliament were offered a 2.8%-salary increase on earnings of more than a R1 000 000 whilst public servants are offered an "increase" of 1.5%.

The PSA, which represents more than 235 000 public-sector employees, strongly condemns Government's double standards as ordinary public servants increasingly suffering financially. Public servants were offered a dismal increase, funded by their annual pay progression money they are already entitled to. Those serving at the frontline against the COVID-19 pandemic are seemingly not regarded as deserving of the same sentiments and arguments on their behalf to justify a mere cost-of-living increase. Rather than acknowledging that ordinary public servants are no longer able to make ends meet, Government finds it justifiable to grant an increase of 2,8% to Parliamentarians already earning more than R1 million per annum.

By "offering" public servants their own 1.5%-pay progression allocation as a salary increase, they are forfeiting that 1.5%. This means, in fact, means that they will not receive a salary adjustment and must look forward to a taxable R978 per month for only 12 months. Even more appallingly, public servants are being sold the offer as if they have no other option as they are told that there are no funds. Funds could, however, be found for increases for members of Parliament who are not at the coal face when the public is being serviced, despite dangers to personal health and safety.

The PSA is convinced that there is a concerted effort by Government to exclude the PSA from the negotiation process. The employer's disrespect was further underlined when it came to a conciliation meeting with the PSA on 3 June 2021 being unprepared and thus further frustrating the process.

The PSA can only accept that the reason for it being muzzled is that Government is not willing to be held accountable nor does it want answer to the concerns and sentiments echoed by public servants through the PSA. Government must take responsibility for its financial woes, which is the main reason that the PSA being in dispute with Government regarding the current Public Service wage negotiations.

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