

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA: Attract younger people to the Public Service**

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With 60% of Africa's population being estimated to be below the age of 25, it is essential for governments on the continent to find ways to attract and retain young people to the public service.

South Africa has a rapidly-ageing public service population, while youth unemployment is sitting at over 50%. This figure includes graduates and those who have stopped actively seeking employment. As the country commemorates Youth Day, the Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about what plans government has in place to not only attract young people to the public sector, but also upskill them and address the country's widening levels of poverty and the lack of job prospects in general.

Whilst the PSA has welcomed pronouncements on the easing of job applications for younger people – removing the need for years of experience when applying for entry-level positions and using more modern recruitment tools such as the newly-implemented e-recruiting system, the Union indicated that more must be done to send the message that the Public Service is open to the youth with excellent career opportunities.

The PSA pointed out that issues of youth unemployment has grown progressively worse, there is also an opportunity for government to recruit techno-savvy young people, especially when considering that the Fourth Industrial Revolution forces operational changes.

The PSA also paid tribute to young people who have taken up the call to serve their communities and the country's citizens and vowed to protect their workplace rights and interests.

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