

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA: SONA lacking in action**

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President Cyril Ramaphosa during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) on 20 June 2019 outlined most expected challenges but lacked detail into actions on how government will reach the ambitious goals set by him. The PSA expected the President to outline a detailed emergency plan on Eskom, youth employment, education, health, crime and government infrastructure and economic growth as key and immediate challenges that will be dealt with to restore hope for South Africa's future. The ten-year plan merely provides hope but demonstrates little commitment in dealing with the current crisis regarding the state of the country.

The reconfigured government and the set goals by the President require the full capacity of the state and the public servants commitment with skills and expertise to deliver on his plans. This should include key institutions such National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), South African Revenue Service (SARS) and Special Investigative Unit (SIU), however offloading 30 000 skilled employees who are between 55 and 59 years of age could hinder this process.

The PSA welcomes his intention to recoup money stolen through corruption, however his good intentions will remain a dream without skilled and experienced public servants. Therefore, government needs to rethink its plan to cut 30 000 capacity and rather focus in redeployment of such skills in areas where efficiency and service delivery will be realised.

The President alone will not achieve on the political plan outlined, but he requires set annual targets and measured performance of his Ministers and Deputy Ministers to evaluate on his achievements and address non-performing Ministers and Deputies rather than wait for public protests demanding services.

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