

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA not impressed with new *Improved Ministerial Handbook***

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                              communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has noted with concern from recent media reports that President Cyril Ramaphosa has approved the new *Improved Ministerial Handbook* (guide) which, amongst others, improves perks for Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Premiers and MECs.

This guide will, amongst others, increase the staff complement in the offices of the executives and allow for security upgrades twice as high as the previous dispensation allowed for. The PSA indicated that these amendments are insensitive to cost-saving measures and the plight of workers, but rather creates the impression of splurging on executives. The Union pointed out that in view of the current state of the economy, and the proposal for early retirement that was tabled at the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council with the aim to reduce the Public Service wage bill, these improvements are hard to swallow.

The PSA is furthermore of the view that the current process by government to grant early-retirement packages to employees between 55 and 59 years will not yield the intended results and will rather result in the erosion of skills and expertise in the Public Service.

The *Improved Ministerial Handbook* underlines the fact that government is more concerned about its own safety and wellbeing than that of Public Service employees. The PSA is strongly condemning the improvements that grant additional perks to executives and called upon the President to reconsider these improvements.

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