

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA calls for decisive actions by newly-appointed Ministers</b>
<b>DATE</b>	31 May 2019
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the appointments of Cabinet Ministers by President Cyril Ramaphosa, sworn in at the Union Buildings on 30 May 2019. The non-politically affiliated Union, representing over 240 000 public-sector workers, is looking forward to progressive engagements with the leadership for a better Public Service.

The Union, however, raised concerns about the operations of several key departments and indicated that it will engage with the relevant Ministers. The Department of Public Service and Administration is key to the well-being of the Public Service. The relationship between labour and the Ministry was starting to take positive form and with the appointment of Mr Senzo Mchunu as the new Minister, the PSA is looking forwards to building on the progress.

The PSA is the majority Union at the Department of Home Affairs, another key department in service delivery. The PSA has experienced a hostile approach from the Department's leadership in the past, which led to cases being heard in the Constitutional Court where the PSA was victorious in advancing workers' rights. The PSA will be engaging with the new Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, to address outstanding matters.

Health and safety continue to be a major issue in many government buildings with many not meeting the requirements of *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and posing danger to employees and the public. The PSA is an advocate for safe working conditions and unfortunately the employer has not been forthcoming in resolving the issues, regardless of judgements that found it guilty of not following procedure. The PSA will engage with Ms Patricia de Lille, the new Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, to address this looming crisis in a progressive manner.

At the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, the PSA is dealing with various pressing matters. The PSA seeks to come to a point where identified issues can be dealt with in an effective manner without wasting taxpayers' money and leaving workers exposed because of cases dragging on for years. The PSA expressed the hope that Mr Ronald Lamola, as the youngest Minister in Cabinet, will demonstrate a liberal approach to issues in this Department that will also inspire officials.

The PSA, whilst welcoming the new Cabinet, cautioned that Ministers should not to be complacent and live up to their key responsibilities. The PSA pointed out that Cabinet has a duty to set an example of zero tolerance for corruption in pursuit of excellence to inspire workers and ultimately benefit service delivery.

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