

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	COVID-19: PSA calls for immediate removal of front-line public servants with underlying medical conditions
<b>DATE</b>	28 April 2020
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) that represents some 240 000 public servants, has again emphasised the need to ensure that workers serving at the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic should be equipped with protective equipment and are regularly reminded of personal safety measures in the execution of their duties.

The PSA has learnt with sadness that COVID-19 has claimed the lives of several the Union's members as well as a devoted shop steward. Shop stewards render crucial workplace services to the Union and its members without compensation at great personal sacrifice, driven by a passion to ensure a better quality of work life.

The PSA, in the face of rising COVID-19 mortalities amongst public servants in the line of duty, calls on employees rendering services to exercise utmost caution in protecting their personal health and safety. Employees have also been advised to inform their employer should they have any underlying health conditions which makes them more vulnerable to contracting the virus. At the same time, the PSA cautions employers not to force employees with listed underlying conditions to report for duty as this represents a wilful exposure to their health and safety. Such irresponsible actions will not be tolerated, and the PSA will not hesitate to protect vulnerable employees against intimidation in any form.

As the death of the PSA members could have been prevented, the PSA calls on government to ensure urgently that public servants with underlying health conditions be removed from the COVID-19 frontline immediately to ensure that their safety is preserved and that we do not add to the increasing rate of the pandemic.

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