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| <b>MEDIA RELEASE</b> | PSA calls for stricter enforcement and accountability following charges against 8 180 employers for employing undocumented foreign workers |
| <b>DATE</b>          | 28 May 2026                                                                                                                                |
| <b>EMBARGO</b>       | None                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>ENQUIRIES</b>     | communication@psa.co.za                                                                                                                    |

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) noted with serious concern the announcement by the Minister of Home Affairs that 8180 employers have been charged for employing undocumented foreign nationals.

Whilst the PSA welcomes this decisive action as a necessary step towards restoring the rule of law, the Union underscores the urgent need for consistent, transparent, and sustained enforcement across all sectors of the economy. The widespread employment of undocumented foreign workers contravenes immigration and labour laws whilst also undermining fair labour practices, compromising national security, and placing vulnerable workers at risk of exploitation. Employers who knowingly engage in such practices distort the labour market, depress wages, and disadvantage law-abiding businesses and South African workers.

The PSA emphasises that public servants, particularly officials at the Departments of Home Affairs and Employment and Labour, must play a critical frontline role in ensuring compliance with legislation. The Union therefore reiterates the call for adequate resourcing of enforcement units to ensure thorough inspections and follow-up actions. Protection and support for whistleblowers and inspectors, who often operate under challenging conditions, must be strengthened. There is a need for stronger interdepartmental coordination to ensure that immigration, labour, and law-enforcement authorities act cohesively. Swift prosecution and meaningful penalties for non-compliant employers will serve as a deterrent.

The PSA cautions against approaches that may unfairly target or stigmatise foreign nationals. The root cause of the problem lies primarily with non-compliant employers who exploit regulatory loopholes and vulnerable people for financial gain. A balanced approach that upholds human dignity whilst enforcing the law is essential. The PSA calls on government to intensify public awareness campaigns to educate employers and employees on legal requirements and consequences of non-compliance. END