

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA calls for urgent actions by appointed Eastern Cape MECs**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                             Piet van Aardt  
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) in the Eastern Cape has welcomed the appointment of the new Members of the Executive Council (MECs) by Premier, Oscar Mabuyane.

The PSA, a non-politically affiliated union, representing more than 230 000 public-sector workers, is looking forward to progressive engagements with the leadership for a better Public Service. The PSA in the past raised concerns on how most departments ignore engagement with labour on serious matters that need urgent attention from MECs. Health and safety matters continue to be a major concern in some government buildings that do not meet the minimum standards as set out in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The PSA will continue to advocate for safe working conditions and monitor how the departments handle safety issued. The Union pointed out that there are also increasing concerns about the condition of government vehicles.

The PSA is also concerned about the ongoing trend of most departments to appoint private legal practitioners to deal with cases whilst having the resources available in-house. This practice is regarded as an unnecessary waste of taxpayers' money.

The PSA pointed out that whilst the appointments are welcomed, MECs should be mindful of the important role labour plays as a stakeholder in terms of the effectiveness and efficiency of each government department.

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