

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls for urgent implementation of the Border Management Authority**

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned regarding the failure by government and the Department of Home Affairs, to implement the Border Management Authority (BMA). It was reported that the Act, which regulated the BMA was proclaimed and signed by President Cyril Ramaphosa in July 2021. Subsequently Dr Nakampe Masiapo was appointed as the Authority's Commissioner and Major-General David Chilembe as the Deputy Commissioner in September 2021. The main aim of the BMA was to integrate and coordinate border management in accordance with the Constitution and International Laws. The appointed Commissioners were expected to appoint Border Guard Officers, Commissioned Officers, and support staff to provide necessary support at the borders. The capacity remains a challenge to manage control and security at borders.

The PSA is disappointed that to date, the BMA is not implemented, and the various challenges continue to persist. The challenges include criminal activities such as human and drug trafficking, the crossing of illegal and undocumented foreign nationals continues to persist and the working conditions of employees at the borders are appalling. The management of the operations and activities at the borders also remains poor. The recent truck drivers protest and congestions at Beitbridge serves as clear evidence, that there is a need to manage borders properly, as such incidences have negative economic and social consequences for the country.

The PSA urges government to fast track the implementation of the BMA so the borders can be professionalised, and to ensure that operations are properly coordinated and managed to curb criminal and corrupt activities.

END