

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls on DEL Minister to urgently issue directives for unions**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 240 000 public servants is frustrated with the delay in the issuing of a directive by the Minister of Employment and Labour, to allow trade unions who are representing employees in essential services, to start functioning under level-4 lockdown procedures. In terms of the Risk adjusted Regulations issued and published on 29 April 2020, trade unions are essential under level 4, subject to directive issued by the Minister of Employment and Labour .

Whilst weeks later the issuing of the directive is awaited, the rights of public servants to return to a safe working environment is being threatened with the pandemic. There are other matters, which are currently arising, which may cause labour unrest and instability if not resolved. This could be prevented and can still be addressed and resolved through engagement/resolution within the set protocols and within the provisions of the Regulations.

Unfortunately, the importance to ensure that all parties can benefit from social dialogue to navigate through this period is not seen and shared by all and more disappointing, it is not seen as being the custodian of good and fair labour practices in the country. There is an urgency for all to work together during this time to find the easiest path to ensure that citizens are protected, their constitutional rights are protected, and legislation is adhered to.

To ensure harmony, unions should be permitted to represent and assist their members when required. The PSA urges the Minister to not only consider issuing the directive urgently, but to make sure that the directives also ensure that trade unions operate efficiently to protect its members.

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