

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls on Limpopo Premier to fill 13 800 vacancies to alleviate youth unemployment**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is deeply concerned about the high vacancy rate in Limpopo, which adversely affects service delivery and employees' health.

Limpopo currently has some 13 800 unfilled, funded vacancies in government departments. The Department of Education leads with 9 850 vacancies, followed by the Department of Health with 1817 vacancies. Employees are expected to provide excellent and professional services whilst many vacancies are not filled. This often exposes employees to the anger of members of the public regarding poor service delivery. This is disheartening and demoralising for employees who are aware that there is no career mobility as positions are not filled, despite constantly upskilling themselves and obtaining improved qualifications.

Limpopo has a high unemployment rate for young people, causing many of them to migrate to other provinces in search of employment, whilst their home province has many vacancies. The PSA is fully aware of the challenges faced by young people and is involved in numerous projects to assist them, including the provision of sanitary pads, school uniforms, solar rechargeable LED lights, and mobile libraries. The PSA is also participating in internship programs in partnership with Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) to afford young people the opportunity to acquire skills and gain experience to enhance their chances of employment.

The PSA calls upon the Limpopo Premier to emulate his counterpart, the Gauteng Premier who celebrated Youth month by approving the filling of thousands of positions in addressing youth unemployment, which has reached an unacceptable level. It would be incorrect and unjustifiable for the Limpopo Province to plead poverty when other provinces such as Gauteng, can fill funded positions as they are receiving financial resources from the same treasury. The PSA has written a letter to the Office of the Premier and is readily available to engage on this matter. The youth of Limpopo cannot continue to suffer the pain of unemployment and hopelessness when there are thousands of vacancies that could be filled that will benefit many families.

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