

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls on President to reshuffle government and appoint competent, energetic Ministers**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) along with South Africans heard the many promises made by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his recent State of the Nation Address (SONA).

SONA is regarded as an important event that sets a plan of action for the year ahead and it is now more than ever of critical importance for the President ensure that plans are actioned. The President is known to be undecisive on many issues and postponing critical decisions, which are detrimental to the country. The PSA urged the President during the COVID-19 pandemic to put measures in place to prevent corruption. He paid no heed until billions were looted by corrupt person. This resulted in a necessity to spend time and vast resources on pinning these criminals, a project that is still underway and could have been avoided.

With recent the announcement of the imminent reshuffling and reconfiguration of government, the President is advised to speedily implement the changes to avoid further uncertainties for South Africans. The PSA appeals to the President use this opportunity to deploy new and competent persons in key ministries such as Police, Education, Transport, Health and the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA). The PSA, without attempting to assess the performance of ministers, points out that facts and statistics are readily available to measure ministers' performance. These positions should have been finalised before announcing plans during SONA to ensure positive outcomes.

South Africa is besieged by crime and murders, which clearly highlights the need for a change in the Police portfolio to a person that will ensure the safety of citizens. The fact that the DPSA has been left without a Minister for an extended period confirms the PSA stance that the President is undecisive and has little interest in the efficiency of the Public Service, which is mostly left unmentioned in his speeches.

The PSA advises the President to be bold and reduce the number of deputy ministers who are not adding value to the efficiency of the Public Service and simply add to expenses for employee salaries and benefits. Now is the opportune time for the President to remove dead wood by replacing ministers who have failed the country unless the reshuffling is part of a political agenda. The PSA urges the President to speedily announce the reshuffling of government to ensure that critical work commences with immediate effect. South Africans can no longer afford lengthy delays in implementing plans that should rescue them from a failing economy, unemployment, poverty, crime, loadshedding and service-delivery failures.

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