

MEDIA RELEASE PSA calls on South Africans to honour heritage and build united future

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 250 000 public-sector employees across South Africa, joins South Africans in commemorating Heritage Day and celebrating the rich cultural diversity, traditions, languages, and history that define the nation.

With the PSA marking 106 years of service, advocacy, and representation, Heritage Day is an opportunity to reflect on South Africa's collective heritage as well as the enduring legacy of workers who have contributed to building a democratic, inclusive, and developmental state. For 106 years, the PSA has been part of South Africa's journey through changing political, social, and economic landscapes. The Union's heritage is rooted in defending workers' rights, advancing fair labour practices and promoting professional, ethical, and accountable public service. This proud legacy is the foundation for future work.

Heritage involves more than the preservation of monuments, historical sites, and artefacts. It encompasses the values, customs, indigenous knowledge systems, languages, and lived experiences that shape communities and strengthen social cohesion. Heritage reminds us of our origins, whilst guiding us towards the society we aspire to create. South Africa's Heritage Month 2026 theme, "*Reimagine our heritage institutions for a new era*", highlights the importance of preserving the collective memory whilst embracing innovation, inclusion, and relevance in a rapidly changing world. Heritage institutions must continue to serve as spaces for education, dialogue, nation-building, and community development.

South Africa's diversity remains one of the nation's greatest strengths. The many cultures, traditions, and languages are powerful assets that enrich society and contribute to nation-building. Heritage Day is a reminder that South Africans are united in their diversity and share a common responsibility to build a future founded on dignity, equality, mutual respect, and social justice.

The PSA applauds the critical role played by public servants in preserving and promoting South Africa's heritage. Across government departments, museums, archives, libraries, schools, cultural institutions, and communities, public servants safeguard the nation's history, traditions, and knowledge for future generations. With South Africa facing persistent challenges of unemployment, poverty, inequality, and social fragmentation, the PSA urges South Africans to draw inspiration from the resilience, courage, and achievements of past generations. South Africa's heritage should catalyse unity, active citizenship, and collective action towards a better South Africa.

On Heritage Day, the PSA encourages all South Africans to celebrate their unique identities whilst embracing the values that unite the nation.

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