

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls upon Minister of Home Affairs to intervene in Border Management Authority fiasco**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the situation at the newly established Border Management Authority (BMA) where a complete system failure has resulted in some employees not receiving their salaries.

The BMA was established in April 2023, with employees from various government departments being transferred to the entity as part of government's endeavour to strengthen poor border management. The transferred employees were removed from the government remuneration system, Persal, to a privately procured system. This resulted in employees receiving incorrect salaries. There were also incorrect personal information on their salary advices and third-party payments, including medical aid, bonds, pensions funds, and cars were not made. Some employees also received messages from the Government Employees Pension Fund, indicating that they had "resigned", whilst others struggled to consult doctors as they were informed that no payment was received from their new employer. Employees were left stranded with no one to contact as the helpdesk that was established to attend to problems failed to respond to enquiries. In addition, these employees are still waiting to be issued with uniforms.

The BMA opted for the services of a consultant to deal with its human resources whilst the public service is capacitated to deal with such matter matters without further expense. Capable human resources practitioners could have been seconded to the BMA to ensure a smooth transition.

The PSA never supported the establishment of the BMA as the agentisation of government has proven not to be assisting the country or workers. The Commissioner as head of the BMA expects employees to report to work whilst they are not receiving their salaries or correct salaries. The PSA calls upon the Minister of Home Affairs to urgently intervene before employees lose their patience with the current intolerable conditions. Failure to create a conducive environment for workers and honouring their contract in terms of salaries and benefits is a violation of their rights. The PSA will not hesitate to commence with litigation should the Union's members suffer prejudice owing to poor administration.

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