

MEDIA RELEASE                      **PSA: Celebrating legacy of trade union success**

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Consistently rendering professional services for more than 100 years, is a goal not easily achieved in the trade-union space. The Public Servants Association (PSA), in marking 103 years of service to public-sector employees on 7 July 2023, has not only achieved this milestone but continues to succeed as a respected South African labour force.

Driven by loyalty, transparency, respect, ethical conduct, consistency, and service excellence, the PSA continues to promote, and protect the rights and interests of public-sector employees. The PSA remains a trusted labour home for hundreds of thousands of public servants. The PSA prides itself in its political independence, which ensures an unclouded approach in prioritising its members' needs. In addition, the PSA continues to invest in communities to ensure a better South African for all citizens.

Persistent attacks on public servants and their negotiated benefits from various quarters, including government and politicians, drive the PSA to strengthen its efforts as the voice of public-sector employees. The PSA has played a key role in the South African labour movement, as manifested by a remarkable track-record of service, achievements, and victories for its members and all other public servants. The PSA has successfully campaigned on many issues affecting public servants. These include housing subsidies, the establishment of a public service medical-aid scheme in 1928, introduction of a cost-of-living allowance system, improvement in conditions of employment for public servants, and ensuring that women could be permanently appointed as public servants as far back as 1970. The PSA was further a key role player in the establishment of the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council where matters affecting public servants are negotiated and concluded. Apart from these accomplishments, the PSA has been actively supporting South African communities through various interventions. Recent projects include the *#SchoolSafety* campaign that addresses the creation of a conducive teaching and learning environment, and the 2023 Workers' Month project. In this project thousands of solar LED lights were donated to Grade-11 and -12 learners to assist them to carry on studying, despite loadshedding.

Prevailing circumstances for in the public sector and developments in the labour movement underline the need for a stable and professional union, such as the PSA, as custodian of public-sector employees' workplace rights and interests, including their occupational health and safety.

The PSA, in celebrating its legacy, acknowledges its growing membership, member structures, shop stewards, business partners, staff, and all other stakeholders who have contributed to the Union's continued success.

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