

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA concerned about continued wage bill comments by Finance Minister**

DATE 2 November 2021

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 230 000 public servants, is appalled by government continuing to engage in wage negotiations through the media, following recent remarks made by the Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana, on the Wage Bill for the 2022/23-financial year.

The Finance Minister again made comments on what the wage adjustments will be without having due consideration for processes that fall within the ambit of the Minister of Public Service and Administration. Previously, the same irresponsible comments were made by the previous Minister of Finance, Tito Mboweni, without having any consideration and regard for the processes that must be managed by the Minister of Public Service and Administration in the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC). This is reckless and seems to intentionally set his colleague up for failure. Collective bargaining in the current economic conditions is a sensitive matter, to say the least. Any statements made without careful consideration can have a serious impact on labour stability, which the country desperately needs at this stage.

The PSA, however, wants to applaud the Minister of Public Service and Administration for making all efforts to ensure that the current wage agreement is implemented fully. This will not only assist in restoring the confidence lost by labour in the negotiation processes of the PSCBC but will also bring stability to the labour market in the sector. Just as this restoration is happening and being managed, it is at the same time unfortunately being undermined by those who are supposed to support such efforts. The PSA is, in fact, questioning the Finance Minister's intention.

The PSA was also assured by the Department of Public Service and Administration, that those members in Senior Management Services will receive their salary increases soon after the implementation process of those from salary level 1 to 12 is completed. The PSA trusts that this indeed will take place and that further comments on the implementation and how the Minister of Public Service and Administration is running her affairs will not be jeopardised by irresponsible political statements.

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