

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA concerned about safety of public servants owing to current civil protests in Western Cape**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                             communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about the safety of public servants as civil protests continue in the Western Cape.

Thousands of the Union's members are being threatened by those instigating the protests and have been unable to reach their workplaces owing to the ongoing protests. The safety of its members is the PSA's primary concern, and the PSA has engaged all employers, government departments, and parastatals alike in this regard. A few employers have responded positively and are trying to protect members by allowing them to work from home or granting special leave for this purpose.

The PSA acknowledges that departments such as the Western Cape Government have responded positively to the plea as well as Health and Wellness, where they are trying to assist, for example, nurses who cannot work from home in other ways. Unfortunately, most national departments have failed to respond, leaving the impression that they are unconcerned with employees' plight.

It is also most disturbing that several hoax protest and violence alerts have been placed on social media, thereby exacerbating the situation. Employees have a constitutional right to safety and government and parastatals, as employers, are required to ensure the safety of their employees.

The PSA once again calls on all government departments and parastatals in the Western Cape to allow employees to work from home until the situation has normalised.

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