

MEDIA RELEASE                      PSA condemns conduct of Minister of Human Settlements in an ongoing disciplinary process

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EMBARGO                                None

ENQUIRIES                              communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) was shocked to hear the Minister of Human Settlements' misleading and incorrect statement on a member of the Union's matter that is still underway at the General Public Service Sectoral Bargaining Council (GPSSBC).

The Minister stated that the disciplinary process of a PSA member had been concluded. It is not clear why the Minister was deliberately lying about the matter whilst she knows the facts. The disciplinary process is ongoing at the GPSSBC, where the PSA is representing the member, advocating for a fair and just resolution. Contrary to the Minister's statement, no conclusion has been reached. The chairperson of the proceedings on two occasions requested parties to mediate. The Department's failure to respond to these requests has stalled the process.

The Minister dismissed the PSA member on the basis that a lift was malfunctioning, and that the Minister was trapped in the lift. This came after the Minister tried to convince the member to retire or face dismissal. The Minister abused her power it is not justifiable for anyone to be dismissed based on these circumstances or be forced to retire. It is deeply concerning that the Minister made this statement without providing an opportunity to present the facts and evidence pertinent to the case. The Minister lacks comprehensive understanding of the situation, resulting in a premature and unjust conclusion being conveyed to the public. The member has taken legal action against the Department to address its unlawful actions, with particular focus on the Minister's involvement. The matter is currently under appeal, with a cost order against the Department, highlighting the gravity of the situation.

The PSA is extremely dissatisfied and disappointed with the Minister's actions. Such ill-informed statements undermine the integrity of the disciplinary process and disregard the rights of the employee involved. The Minister's disregard for due process and failure to consider existing legal proceedings is unacceptable. The PSA will continue to provide representation to the member throughout the disciplinary process to seek a fair outcome based on the merits of the case.

The PSA urges the Minister to retract the misleading statement and engage with parties involved in the disciplinary process. It is essential for the Minister to uphold the principles of fairness, transparency, and respect for due process. The Minister's conduct should reflect the highest standards of accountability and adherence to the rule of law. The PSA remains resolute in pursuit of justice and will take all necessary measures to ensure that the rights of public servants are protected and upheld.

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