

**MEDIA RELEASE:** **PSA condemns increase in fuel and electricity costs**

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**EMBARGO** None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned that the recent electricity and fuel price increases will deepen the financial woes of public servants and all South Africans.

The decision to raise electricity prices, coupled with increased fuel price, has sent shockwaves through communities already grappling with economic uncertainty. These increases will have a detrimental impact on the livelihoods of workers, including public servants who are stretched thin as they endeavour to fulfil their duties.

The timing of these price hikes is particularly distressing given the recent announcement of a mere 4.7% salary increase for public servants by the Minister of Public Service and Administration. This inadequate adjustment fails to keep pace with the rising cost of living, leaving public servants struggling to make ends meet. The salaries increase is a projected inflation linked and not a real wage increase, whilst the cost of living is well above the inflation rate. This, coupled with the recent announcement not to cut high interest rates, further exacerbates the financial burden on workers.

The PSA demands transparency and accountability from government regarding these decisions. A commitment is required to address the concerns of public servants who stand in service of citizens. It is unacceptable for them to bear the brunt of economic hardships whilst simultaneously being expected to fulfil crucial roles in delivering essential services.

The PSA urges government to reconsider these unjustified price increases and to prioritise the well-being of citizens, including dedicated public servants. The PSA stands ready to engage in constructive dialogue to find sustainable solutions that protect the interests of public-sector employees and all South Africans.

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