

MEDIA RELEASE PSA condemns KwaZulu-Natal Coastal TVET College's unfair dismissal of 101 contract workers

DATE 6 December 2023

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) condemns the reckless response by the acting Principal of KwaZulu-Natal Coastal TVET College following the unfair dismissal of 101 contract workers.

The PSA is appalled by disgraceful propaganda being distributed by the acting Principal, which seems to be aimed at misleading employees and the public regarding the unjust dismissal of these contract workers. The PSA rejects the baseless claims by the acting Principal, of having engaged with the PSA's provincial chief negotiators on 29 November 2023. Not only did the College management disrespect established bargaining processes by sidestepping negotiations, but it also proceeded to issue a letter, stating that College staff would not receive bonuses. It is perplexing that the acting Principal is now attempting to portray a misleading narrative of engagement that PSA is completely unaware of.

Given management's apparent understanding of correct processes for engaging in retrenchment discussions, the PSA urges the acting Principal to take the honourable steps and resign from his position, along with the Deputy Principal. The PSA was mandated the Union's members to call for this change, as their welfare and rights have been blatantly disregarded. Rather than sacrificing dedicated workers who are the spine of the institution, management should be focus on addressing the staggering R52 million deficit.

The PSA is extremely concerned about the College management's decision to unjustly terminate the contracts of 101 workers, including 72 lecturers. This ill-advised course of action severely undermines the teaching and learning environment, putting the progress and development of students at risk. The PSA therefore appeals to the Minister of Higher Education and Training and the Presidency to intervene urgently to rescue the College. The future of learners is at stake, and it is imperative that immediate steps are taken to ensure that their education prospects are safeguarded.

The PSA calls for the withdrawal of termination letters, and the payment of College employees' bonuses as expected for December 2023. The PSA will continue to protect and promote the rights and interests of its members and is determined to bring about justice and equitable treatment for all employees at the College.

END

