

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA condemns non-compliance with COVID-19 regulations at Pretoria Deeds Office**

**DATE**                                      17 June 2021

**EMBARGO**                                None

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

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), as the majority Union in the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, appalled by the decision of management to recall 100% staff to work amidst the COVID-19 third wave of infections and an increase in positive at the Pretoria Deeds Office.

The full return of staff has caused congestion and lack of social distance, making it difficult to follow safety protocols. The PSA is not in the position to allow employees to be exposed to such hazardous working conditions. The Department seems to be more concerned about the processing of backlog applications than the lives of its employees.

The PSA supports the closure of the Deeds Office until the proper health and safety measures are implemented. There is a lot of anxiety and fear among staff members because of the positive cases reported recently. The PSA urged the management in a meeting on 14 June 2021 to implement a rotational system and shift system as a mitigating strategy to prevent infections. Despite the urgency, the Department has not implemented these requested measures.

The PSA will continue to exert pressure on the Department to ensure employees' safety.

END

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