

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>Eskom bailout: PSA condemns President Ramaphosa's statements on public-sector pension funds</b>
<b>DATE</b>	4 March 2020
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents more than 240 000 public-sector employees and pensioners, is disgusted about recent remarks by President Ramaphosa, underlining government's intent to use public servants' pension fund savings to bail out Eskom.

President Ramaphosa's further statement at a meeting with the South African National Editors Forum in Cape Town on 3 March 2020 of "*We would obviously like the private sector to also put their money into Eskom – and obviously their confidence needs to be built up as we move on*", gives rise to grave concern. It seems that government is intent on gambling with public servants' pension savings in a futile effort to gain the confidence of private sector investors. There is clearly no regard for the consequences for pension fund beneficiaries. Ordinary workers and pensioners who are also loyal taxpayers cannot be expected to bear the brunt of wide-spread, high-level financial mismanagement. The PSA remains firm in its stance that government should explore other means to address the self-inflicted Eskom fiasco.

The President's statement that "*Pension funds should not be too fearful because we have got an Eskom journey that is well-plotted ahead, which is going to be corruption free*", unfortunately holds no securities. The PSA has on numerous occasions rejected all initiatives to use public servants' pension fund money to bail out any state-owned entity with financial woes.

The Union reiterated that government should prioritise putting forward concrete plans of how it intends resolving the mismanagement of state funds and assets and cautioned that it will not hesitate to litigate to protect government employees' pension savings from reckless exposure.

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