

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA condemns statement by PSC calling public servants lazy**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) representing more than 235 000 public servants has noted the media statement issued by the Public Service Commission (PSC), calling public servants lazy with great concern. The views expressed in the article are reckless, irrational, and misleading. The posture adopted by the PSC to express its views in the media instead of engaging stakeholders regarding its concerns on the professionalisation of the Public Service is unfortunate and regrettable.

The views expressed demonstrate a total lack of appreciation for the good work done and sacrifices made by public servants, sometimes under very difficult conditions. Not so long ago, most public servants especially essential workers risked their lives and carried the country during the Covid-19 pandemic, with a number of workers losing their lives to provide a service. The PSA is acutely opposed to the narrative being peddled that public servants are lazy and supports the professionalisation of the Public Service because the PSA believes it will improve service delivery in the country.

Government and Public Sector unions committed to working together at the Public Service Summit in March 2022, to amongst other things professionalise the entire Public Sector. The PSA and other Public Sector unions are currently engaging Government at the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC) on the professionalisation of the Public Service. There is a dedicated workstream dealing with this matter. To this end, the assertion that government does not have a plan to professionalise the Public Service is incorrect and misleading.

The PSA calls on the PSC to either assist in offering solutions in the professionalisation of the Public Service or to stop its unwarranted and baseless criticism of hard-working public servants and rather focus on its mandate. The PSA notes and appreciates the good work done by public servants and will continue to support and bargain for their improved conditions of service.

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