

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA condemns termination of employment contracts of 5 500 EPWP workers by Gauteng government
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which is the majority Union in the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development, condemns the termination of contract of employment of all 5 500 Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP) workers from Tshwane and Johannesburg region.

The EPWP workers have been employed by the State as contract workers for six years without an option to absorb them permanently. The State continued to extend their contracts of employment continuously beyond twelve months. The PSA pointed out that the State as the employer has contravened section 198 of the *Labour Relations Act*, as a reasonable expectation was created to appoint the EPWP workers permanently.

The PSA is disturbed by the sudden decision to terminate the contracts of employment of these employees during the current economic situation where the unemployment rate has risen to 29%. The State as employer is directly contributing to the country's soaring unemployment rate. In the face of steep increases in the process of all commodities, it will be near impossible for these workers to support their families beyond this point.

The blatant exploitation of workers, especially by the State, cannot be tolerated and the PSA demands that the Gauteng government appoints these 5 500 EPWP workers permanently to avoid dire consequences, which are set to have a severe social and economic impact on the country.

END

