

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA condemns unlawful removal of senior manager at Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Tourism

DATE

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns the appalling and unlawful treatment of a senior employee of the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Tourism who was forcibly removed from the workplace on 18 February 2025 by representatives of a union.

The employee was publicly humiliated, forcibly chased out of the Department amidst chanting and singing and accused of being a "thief." The employee was told never to return whilst colleagues stood by, and shockingly, the employer failed to intervene. No security personnel were deployed to defuse the situation, leaving the employee vulnerable to this blatant act of intimidation and victimisation. The PSA is extremely concerned about the employer's failure to uphold its legal obligation to provide a safe and secure working environment. By allowing such a serious violation to take place, the employer has set a dangerous precedent that undermines workplace discipline and professional integrity.

Following the PSA's urgent request for a meeting with senior management, the employer responded by stating that the employee should not report for duty until her safety is assured. Whilst this response acknowledges the gravity of the situation, it does not address the employer's initial failure to act. The PSA demands immediate disciplinary action against those responsible for this gross violation of the employee's rights. The PSA calls for an urgent meeting with the Department's senior management to ensure accountability and prevent a recurrence of such incidents. Should the employer fail to act decisively, the PSA will pursue all necessary legal avenues to safeguard the rights and dignity of public servants. Workplace lawlessness cannot be tolerated.

The PSA remains steadfast in its commitment to defending public servants and ensuring a safe, fair, and professional working environment.

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