



**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA confident High Court will force SARS to implement final leg of wage agreement**

**DATE**                                      15 October 2021

**EMBARGO**                                None

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

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 5 300 employees of the South African Revenue Service (SARS), is confident that the High Court will rule in favour of the PSA and its members, following the failure SARS to implement the final year of a wage agreement, signed in 2019.

On 1 April 2021, members at SARS were due to receive the final increase as part of a multi-year salary agreement. The agreement was reached in 2019 after prolonged negotiations, which ended in members embarking on strike action. SARS and the PSA agreed to a three-year, multi-term agreement, which was expected to bring about much-needed stability in SARS and provide an opportunity to rebuild the organisation after the deliberate dismantling of its powers and ability to collect revenue.

The PSA approached the High Court in Pretoria with the view that the Court is the appropriate forum to enforce the collective agreement and provide specific performance relief to PSA members. Recent awards by the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) in similar cases showed that the CCMA lacked the required jurisdiction to deal with such disputes. The PSA trusts that sanity will prevail, and that SARS will do the right thing by paying employees what is due to them without wasting taxpayers' money on frivolous court actions.

The PSA also lodged a claim against the Minister of Finance for not providing the required budget allocation and was flabbergasted when the Minister requested to be removed from the dispute, since National Treasury provided the requested budget allocation to SARS and even gave additional funding. It is therefore not clear why SARS decided not to pay workers the agreed salary increase since a multi-term agreement was requested by SARS.

The PSA has repeatedly called on the Commissioner of SARS to implement the outstanding salary increase to all employees.

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