



MEDIA RELEASE PSA deeply disappointed with State of Nation Address

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is deeply disappointed in the State of the Nation Address (SONA) delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 9 February 2024.

Instead of offering concrete strategies to address urgent issues such as unemployment, rising interest rates, deteriorating infrastructure, and challenges posed by the current *National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill*, the SONA appeared to be more of an electioneering campaign.

Whilst the PSA acknowledges government's efforts to create employment opportunities for the youth, it is crucial to highlight that these initiatives are insufficient in the face of the severe unemployment crisis in South Africa. The absence of substantial plans to address the root causes of unemployment and other critical issues is deeply concerning.

The PSA welcomes steps taken to prosecute some individuals responsible for state capture. However, more decisive action is needed against the orchestrators of state capture. The PSA acknowledges government's plan to end load-shedding but deems it a failure, considering the substantial economic losses incurred owing to continued power outages, which also have a detrimental impact on employment and the cost of living.

The PSA calls on government to prioritise practical solutions and take meaningful actions to address the pressing challenges faced by the country. Government must focus on implementing policies that will generate sustainable employment, stabilise interest rates, improve infrastructure, and ensure the effective implementation of the NHI to meet the healthcare needs of all citizens.

The PSA urges government to engage in genuine dialogue with stakeholders, including unions, to develop comprehensive and inclusive strategies. These strategies should uplift the nation and improve the lives of all South Africans. The PSA stands ready to collaborate with government in finding lasting solutions to the challenges facing country.

END

