

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA demands action against GPAA for flouting employees' health and safety**

**DATE**                                      25 November 2021

**EMBARGO**                                None

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

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA), as the majority Union representing employees of the Government Pensions Administration Agency (GPAA), is deeply concerned about the GPAA's apparent non-adherence to COVID-19 protocols.

The PSA is dismayed to have observed a disturbing pattern that undermines occupational health and safety (OHS) protocols and COVID-19 regulations, coinciding with the appointment of an acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from August 2020. It appears that the acting CEO has no regard for GPAA employees' health and safety. His exercise of authority seems to blatantly undermine OHS protocols and COVID-19 regulations. On 16 November 2021, for example, he kept employees at Travena Building in Sunnyside, Pretoria despite a notice from Tshwane Municipality received on 11 November 2021 that there would be no water in the area. This shortage/absence of water for a prolonged period, compelled employees to go home to circumvent the risks associated with the situation as the building was smelly and uninhabitable.

The acting CEO has now also appointed a law firm to investigate the role of shop stewards in safeguarding the rights and interests of employee on the day in question. This is clearly an abuse of power and a waste of taxpayers' money. It has been brought to the PSA's attention that the CEO uses abusive, vulgar, and derogating language towards colleagues, especially African colleagues occupying senior positions.

Employees' morale is extremely low and the GPAA is losing many competent officials owing to, amongst others, ill treatment, bullying, and unfair treatment. The PSA will seek the intervention of the Minister of Finance to ensure that the stability is restored at the GPAA and that employees' working conditions are conducive.

END