

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA disappointed with SARS' delaying tactic to lodge an appeal application against high court judgment**

DATE 23 February 2024

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 5200 employees working for the South African Revenue Service (SARS) expresses its strong disappointment over the recent decision by SARS to lodge a leave to appeal application against the High Court judgment delivered on 22 November 2023. The judgment stipulated that SARS must honour the final year of the three-year wage agreement signed with the PSA in 2019. The deal was signed after the PSA embarked on a two-day strike action and SARS offered a favourable multi-year agreement to prevent further strike action.

The PSA is extremely concerned by SARS' decision to pursue this course of action, especially considering the delay in lodging their appeal, which comes three months after the judgment was delivered. In the application, SARS seeks to blame the PSA for their delay in bringing the application which the PSA believe is disingenuous as they initially lodged an appeal on time and withdrew the appeal autonomously. It appears evident that SARS is resorting to this wasteful exercise after failing to persuade the PSA to accept a reduced settlement offer. The employer further tried to ignore the recognised bargaining forum when they approached members directly to try and force down a settlement offer that PSA members rejected through a ballot process. This attempt by the employer can only be seen as a desperate attempt to abdicate their contractual obligations against their employees and when this plan failed their last attempt was to lodge an appeal application.

The PSA wishes to emphasize its dissatisfaction with SARS' attempt to negotiate a reduced settlement amount post-judgment. The PSA believe this tactic demonstrates a display of arrogance from the employer's side, and managers must be held personally liable for the misuse of taxpayers' money.

Furthermore, the PSA calls upon the Minister of Finance to intervene and expedite the resolution of this impasse to ensure that revenue collection activities are not negatively affected. It is imperative that SARS upholds its contractual obligations and respects the agreements made with its employees.

The PSA urge SARS to reconsider its position and hope that sanity will prevail by paying employees what is due to them when they voluntarily entered a multi-term agreement in 2019 to stay off a crippling strike action during the final days of the 2019/20 financial year.

END