

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA not satisfied with above-inflation increase for politicians amidst national hardship
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) representing hundreds of thousands of dedicated public-sector employees across South Africa, is not satisfied with President Cyril Ramaphosa's decision to approve a 3.8% salary increase for Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Members of Parliament.

This move comes at a time when millions of South Africans continue to battle rising living costs, service delivery failures, and economic hardship. This increase is above the current inflation rate of 3.5% recorded by year-end, as noted by the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office-Bearers. It demonstrates a troubling disconnect between political office-bearers and the financial realities faced by ordinary citizens and public servants. The PSA finds this increase unjustifiable whilst government granted public servants only a 5.5% increase in 2025, which barely offsets cost-of-living pressures. Political leaders, however, receive generous, backdated salary adjustments from April 2025 that surpass inflation.

In view of unemployment remaining high, service delivery collapsing, and public-sector wage constraints consistently cited as a budgetary challenge, this decision signals misplaced priorities in government. Reports show that despite government's claims of fiscal discipline, the wage bill for top officials continues to absorb substantial public funds, even as the overall government wage bill has been strategically reduced as a share of national spending over the past decade.

The PSA maintains that leadership should set an example of restraint, particularly in a country grappling with economic inequality and public frustration owing to governance failures. Compensation for politicians already earning in the upper percentiles of income cannot continue to rise whilst frontline public servants endure growing workloads, stagnant resources, and intensified community demands. The PSA however maintains that Magistrates and other Judicial officers deserve a decent increase and calls on the President to implement the proposals made by the Remuneration Committee to consider bridging the gap in salaries and benefits between the lower and higher court officials

The PSA calls for transparent and equitable remuneration processes that prioritise essential service delivery and the wellbeing of the public-sector workforce. Parliamentary oversight is required to ensure that leadership compensation aligns with South Africa's socio-economic realities.



A moratorium on salary increases for politicians must be implemented until meaningful improvements in public service funding and accountability are achieved.

END

