

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA notes decrease in unemployment but urges government to contribute
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 245 000 public-sector employees, noted the marginal decrease in the South African unemployment rate.

Whilst the number of employed persons has surpassed pre-COVID levels, it still remains a serious concern that job creation is not keeping up with the number of people entering the workforce. The PSA noted the positive trend of declining unemployment, attributing this improvement to commendable efforts by the mining sector.

The PSA is, however, concerned about the nonchalant approach by government as the biggest employer in the country by not contributing to the creation of jobs. The PSA urges government to actively participate in further reducing unemployment. Government should start by prioritising the filling of all vacancies in departments as it is on record to confirm that the notion that indicates that the public service is bloated is farfetched. There are huge staff shortages in the safety and security, education, and health sectors. These shortages are compromising the effective and sufficient service delivery to citizens and places an enormous burden on already overstretched public servants.

The PSA believes that it is crucial for government to play its part in sustaining and enhancing the positive trajectory of decreasing unemployment for the wellbeing of the country. The PSA therefore urges President Cyril Ramaphosa to provide a plan of action to ensure that job creation is prioritised, especially in government as the biggest employer, and not only rely on the private sector to lift the country out of its unacceptable unemployment rates.

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