

MEDIA RELEASE PSA rejects call to cut educators' salaries

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has noted with concern remarks attributed by economist, Dawie Roodt, suggesting that educators' salaries should be halved to enable government to employ more educators.

The PSA agrees that South Africa urgently needs more educators to reduce overcrowded classrooms and improve teaching and learning. The Union, however, strongly rejects the suggestion that this should be achieved by cutting the salaries of existing educators. Educators are not overpaid. They work under demanding conditions, often beyond official hours, whilst facing rising costs for medical aid, transport, housing, food, and utilities. Reducing their salaries would further undermine morale, discourage skilled people from entering the profession, and place additional pressure on strained households.

Government should instead improve the management of public resources, eliminate wasteful expenditure, and strengthen oversight of procurement and outsourcing. Funds lost through inefficient contracting, unnecessary administrative costs, and poor financial management should be redirected towards employing more educators and strengthening frontline education services.

The PSA is also concerned about the continued outsourcing of functions that could, where appropriate, be effectively managed in the Public Service. Greater efficiency in areas such as school-feeding programmes could release additional resources for classrooms. South Africa cannot improve education by impoverishing educators. Sustainable improvement requires greater investment in education, more educators, smaller classes, improved infrastructure, and stronger support for those responsible for educating the Country's children.

The PSA calls on government to prioritise education expenditure and ensure that public funds are directed towards frontline service delivery rather than unnecessary administrative overheads and inefficient contracting arrangements.

END

