

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA sends stern warning to the Democratic Alliance (DA) to leave the livelihoods of Public Servants out of politics**

DATE 27 May 2020

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communicaiton@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 240 000 Public Servants, has noted through an urgent circular released by the Minister of Public Service and Administration, that Departments must submit information in respect of public servants engagement, with work during level-4 and if they are currently receiving their salaries, whilst still at home during lockdown level-4.

The PSA trusts that the information is sought by the Democratic Alliance (DA), for their own statistical and information purposes only. The DA should take heed that the PSA will not stand by and allow any political party to use the livelihood and income of public servants to advance their own political agenda. Although the reason for the request has not been outlined to the PSA, the type of information requested is questionable, what is the real intention behind the request? The lockdown was implemented as a National Disaster and Regulations were issued to this effect. These regulations were clear on which services were required to kick start certain operations. If a public servant were not required to work, owing to the nature of their work and/or because of the restrictions under lockdown, it is not their fault that they could not continue to execute their duties. It is only logical that public servants be remunerated, during the entire lockdown period, owing to the nature of their employment contract and South African Legislation.

Unfortunately, this circular based on the request for information has filtered down to members at grassroots level and is causing anxiety and fears amongst workers. Raising such anxiety is seen by the PSA as inhumane at a time when it is expected of those frontline workers, who happen to be public servants to perform at their best without having their morale affected negatively.

END