

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA set for strike action in Cape Town**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                              communication@psa.co.za

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Members of the Public Servants Association (PSA) in all government departments in the Western Cape are set to join the Union's national strike action this week.

The strike action follows government's failure to offer a reasonable salary increase for public servants. The PSA tried everything in its power to avoid industrial action, but government refused to engage further on the matter. Instead, government arrogantly decided to unilaterally implement a meagre 3%-salary increase.

In addition, government is also misleading the public by claiming to have given a greater percentage increase to public servants. A R1 000 non-pensionable cash gratuity is included in the initial offer by government but is due to end on 31 March 2023. All proper mandating and balloting procedures were followed by the PSA after which the Union's members rejected the offer.

Members of the public are thus advised not to visit government departments across the Western Cape from 8 November 2022 as workers will be picketing in protest against the unilateral implementation of an unacceptable salary offer. The PSA is now demanding an increase of 10% as public servants last received a real salary increase in 2019. Public servants' pensions are stagnating, vacancies are not being filled, meaning that they are required to perform the duties of employees who have resigned and retired, which denies citizens the professional service delivery to which they are entitled. There are thousands of vacancies in the public service that government refuses to fill whilst unemployment continues to soar. Citizens deserve better and the PSA trusts that the public will understand and support public servants' plight and resulting actions.

Pickets will be taking place across the Cape Town metropole and surrounding areas on 8 and 9 November 2022. These will lead up to a stay away, including a march to Parliament on Thursday, 10 November 2022. Pickets, demonstrations, and marches are also planned by the PSA across the country. Apart from raising PSA members' dissatisfaction with poor salary increases, the industrial action serves to condemn government's disregard for collective bargaining process, properly instituted in the *Labour Relations Act*, and the value of public servants.

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