

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA shocked by media report on 10 000 Public Service job cuts
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents more than 230 000 public servants, is shocked about a newspaper article on 28 February 2020, revealing that government is aiming to reduce its staff establishment by 10 000 employees over a period of three years.

The article in *Beeld* furthermore indicates that based on budget documents published on 26 February 2020, most cuts (4 500 positions) will be in the South African Police Service (SAPS), with anticipated voluntarily severance packages at an estimated cost of R500 million. The PSA fails to understand the logic behind this plan in the face of soaring crime rates. Research has shown that the ratio of police officers in relation to the public they serve is well short of international standards. A reduction in the SAPS workforce will place a tremendous strain on remaining employees, will leave citizens exposed and will serve only the interests of criminals.

It is furthermore of grave concern to the PSA that panic regarding public servants' job security is created by the media when no engagements have taken place in the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council as the only platform where these matters should be dealt with. None of the shocking revelations have been tabled for engagement with labour, except to review PSCBC Resolution 1 of 2018 related to salary adjustments. The PSA has already rejected this propels

Whilst the PSA has a measure of sympathy for government's desperation admits the current economic turmoil, the Union advised the President and the Minister of Finance to shift their focus from government employees' benefits and address the real cost drivers, including frivolous litigation, corruption and fraud, the use of consultants, irregular and wasteful expenditure. Plans to recover such funds from culprits should be the priority.

Government has a duty to respect its employees' rights and interests and cannot make unilateral plans that impact on their livelihood. The PSA therefore rejects government's plans with the contempt it deserves and warns government to not even consider cutting 10 000 jobs as this will plunge the economy into even deeper despair.

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