

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA slams North West Parks and Tourism Board for unlawful and exploitative 300%-rent hike for employees
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) denounces the draconian and exploitative rental increases that the North West Parks and Tourism Board (NWPTB) intends imposing on employees at Taung Hotel School and Mafikeng Hotel School from 1 September 2025.

Employees were informed of an outrageous 300%-rent hike, with charges set to skyrocket from R1 300 to an unaffordable R6 800 per month. This is in addition to unilateral electricity deductions from their salaries. These measures have been introduced without any consultation with employees or their recognised union, in blatant disregard of fair labour practices.

The PSA formally wrote to the acting CEO of the NWPTB to raise serious concern and to demand urgent intervention. To date, the acting CEO has not responded, a silence that underscores the Board's arrogance, lack of accountability, and total disregard for the well-being of its employees.

The PSA categorically rejects these increases as unlawful, unaffordable, and grossly exploitative. Many affected employees earn modest wages, support dependents and extended families, and cannot absorb such a financial shock. To aggravate this injustice, the PSA has received confirmed reports that non-employees continue to occupy staff housing without paying rent, whilst employees are targeted for astronomical increases. Rental arrangements are governed by binding lease agreements, which require negotiation and mutual consent before any variation, including rental adjustments, can be made. The unilateral imposition of a 300%-rent increase constitutes a direct breach of contract and a violation of the *Rental Housing Act, 1999*, which explicitly prohibits exploitative rental practices and unfair treatment of tenants.

The PSA demands the immediate suspension of the intended rental increases and salary-based electricity deductions. Should the NWPTB fail to heed this demand, the PSA will escalate the matter to the highest legal and statutory forums available to ensure that employees' rights are protected. The PSA will not allow the Union's members at Taung and Mafikeng Hotel Schools to be exploited, bullied, or financially strangled by unlawful practices. The Union is ready to defend its members with all resources at its disposal.

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