MEDIA RELEASE	**PSA stops unlawful termination of jobs at Mpumalanga Department of Water and Sanitation**
DATE	31 March 2020
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Mpumalanga Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has been prevented by the Public Servants Association (PSA) from retrenching employees based at Vlakfontein Construction Unit.

The PSA was made aware of the DWS's intention to lay-off project-based employees at the unit without following due procedure as dictated by the *Labour Relations Act (LRA)*. The DWS issued workers with notices of termination of their services effective from 31 March 2020. The employees and their unions were not consulted in this matter before this action was taken.

Affected members of the PSA consulted with the PSA on 9 March 2020 to seek help. The PSA immediately engaged with the DWS and met with the Department on 18 March 2020. The PSA advised the DWS that the termination of these contracts is unlawful in terms of *section 189* of the *LRA.*

After extensive consultation with the PSA, the DWS retracted its intention to terminations and the PSA negotiated an extension of the contracts for another year. The DWS further committed to precede any intended termination of contracts of employees with consultations as provided for in the *LRA*. The PSA will not tolerate the undermining of workers' rights.

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