

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA supports increased government funding for implementation of Border Management Authority**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

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

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), as the majority Union at the Department of Home Affairs, supports the request by the Border Management Authority (BMA) to parliament for funding and urges government to make such funds available for the BMA to be fully operational.

Recent reports indicate that the BMA requested parliament to allocate R3 million to pay staff and R5.2 billion for goods and services. The PSA previously urged government to fast track the implementation of the BMA for various critical reasons. Trade activities with SADC countries will receive a major boost should the BMA plan be implemented with adequate and sufficient resources. The plan is further crucial to curb rampant criminal activities and illegal border crossing by undocumented foreign nationals into the country. Illegal activities at border posts curb economic growth and discourage investments.

Government must urgently improve capacity and operational systems at borders to achieve the intended goals. A professionalised and modernised entity would render efficient and effective service to the country. The PSA thus urges government and the Minister of Finance to prioritise the funding of the BMA project to ensure that security is improved, and illegal activities are clamped down at border posts.

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