

**MEDIA RELEASE**            PSA supports measures to protect court officials and uphold rule of law

**DATE**                            23 April 2026

**EMBARGO**                      None

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

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA) applauds the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development's stance to take steps to shield court officials from harassment and intimidation by cameras and hostile conduct when high-profile persons appear in court.

The PSA condemns any behaviour, by politicians, public figures, or members of the public that places judicial officers, prosecutors, magistrates, clerks, and court support staff at risk. Court officials are not political actors. They are public servants tasked with upholding the *Constitution* and administering justice impartially. Subjecting them to intimidation, public vilification, or targeted exposure undermines their personal safety and the integrity of the justice system. Public servants working in courts already face immense pressure, limited resources, and growing workloads. Adding threats, harassment, or orchestrated public attacks create an unsafe working environment and weaken public confidence in the rule of law.

The PSA therefore supports reasonable and lawful measures by the Department to protect court officials whilst ensuring that transparency and media freedom are respected within constitutional limits. The PSA cautions against the politicisation of courts and reiterates that disputes with judgements must be resolved through legal processes, not public intimidation. Respect for judicial independence is a cornerstone of democracy and must be defended without compromise.

The PSA urges all political parties and leaders to act responsibly, respect court outcomes, and refrain from conduct that endangers public servants or erodes constitutional institutions.

END

