

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes Border Management Authority initiative to enhance border security, but calls for urgent consultation on body-worn cameras
DATE	15 April 2025
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), as the majority Union representing employees of the Border Management Authority (BMA), has noted a recent announcement by the BMA Commissioner and the Minister of Home Affairs regarding the introduction of surveillance technology to improve border security and curb corruption.

Such technology including body-worn cameras and drones. The PSA appreciates the intention to enhance transparency, accountability, and operational efficiency through technological means, it is concerned about the manner in which the body-worn camera initiative has been rolled out. The policy was implemented without any meaningful consultation with employees, organised labour, or other key stakeholders. This lack of engagement undermines the spirit of cooperative governance and raises critical questions about the impact of such surveillance tools on employees' rights to privacy, dignity, and fair labour practices. Whilst the PSA supports innovations aimed at strengthening border control and ensuring clean governance, it is essential that such initiatives are developed in line with legal frameworks, policy clarity, and inclusive dialogue. Employees must be consulted and fully informed about how this technology will affect their responsibilities, how data will be collected, stored, accessed, and used, and safeguards in place to protect against misuse or abuse.

The use of surveillance technology, if not carefully implemented, risks violating fundamental employee rights and eroding trust in the organisation. Body-worn cameras must be introduced with clear guidelines that balance the need for accountability with respect for individual dignity and privacy. Officers understand the purpose, scope, and limitations of this technology. They must be afforded an opportunity to raise concerns and make inputs before implementation. The PSA therefore calls on the BMA and the Department of Home Affairs to immediately pause the rollout of the body-worn camera policy and initiate a transparent and inclusive consultation process. The Union urges the BMA to engage in genuine dialogue with organised labour and other relevant role players to co-develop a policy that is ethical, lawful, and sustainable.

The PSA is committed to supporting measures that improve public service delivery and root out corruption. Such measures must, however, be implemented in a manner that respects the rights and well-being of employees, fosters trust, and promotes a culture of cooperation.

END