

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes Department of Employment and Labour's decision to hire 20 000 interns inspectors
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) applauds the Minister of Employment and Labour for the initiative to introduce 20 000 internship inspectors as this proactive investment in human capital marks a significant turning point.

By prioritising the expansion of the team, the Minister has demonstrated a clear commitment to operational excellence, employee well-being, and the long-term sustainability of the Department's mission. Increasing staff capacity directly addresses several critical challenges, including alleviating sustained pressure on existing employees, reducing burnout, and promoting a healthier work-life balance.

The decision to strengthen staffing levels will effectively address chronic understaffing, which has long affected service delivery. With more personnel, the Department can ensure faster response times and an improved quality of service to clients. Bringing in new talent will support the current team, restoring manageable workloads, reducing client wait times, and minimising the need for mandatory overtime. This intervention signals that the employer is listening to frontline insights provided by the PSA and will allow existing employees to shift from "survival mode" back to strategic, impactful work. Adequate staffing is not only a matter of efficiency but a fundamental requirement for ensuring a safe and secure work environment.

The PSA has long advocated for an expanded workforce to meet the growing demands of public service delivery. It is encouraging to see the Department responding positively and take concrete action to address these needs. This initiative is not just about adding more hands - it is about valuing the people who keep the Department functioning and ensuring they have support to deliver quality services.

The PSA views this development as a vital step towards a more collaborative and productive future, but urges the Minister to prioritise the permanent absorption of internship inspectors, particularly those responsible for the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, *Basic Conditions of Employment Act*, the Unemployment Insurance Fund, the *Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act*, and the *Employment Equity Act*. Prioritising their absorption will create meaningful employment opportunities and strengthen good governance.

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