

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA welcomes Durban High Court ruling to suspend eviction notice against employee residing in state residence**

DATE 3 November 2023

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the recent ruling by the Durban High Court, to suspend the eviction notice against an employee of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health.

The Durban High Court on 15 August 2023 issued a Court order to evict Sister Phindile Sibiyi, a PSA member employed by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, from her official residence by not later than 31 October 2023 owing to her allegedly being in arrears with payment of rental fees. In response, the PSA filed an urgent court application on 30 October 2023 to challenge the eviction order. This legal recourse was initiated in response to the Durban High Court's demand for Sister Sibiyi to vacate the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital residence by 31 October 2023.

The PSA also appointed an attorney to assist Sister Sibiyi in this matter in seeking justice through the courts. The aim was to prevent the enforcement of the eviction order until the application for rescission is heard in February 2024 as per the court order.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health is thus prohibited from forcibly removing Sister Sibiyi from the residence. This ruling not only signifies a triumph for Sister Sibiyi but should also serve as a stark warning to the Department, highlighting the imperative nature of consistently respecting the rights of employees residing in state residences.

The PSA is concerned about troubling allegations, suggesting that Sister Sibiyi may have been targeted or singled out owing to her active involvement with the PSA. The PSA remains resolute in its commitment to represent its members and safeguard their well-being. The PSA will persist in its endeavors to ensure that justice prevails and that members are shielded against unjust actions by employers.

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