

MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes government's extension of Fuel Levy relief

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes Government's decision to extend the fuel levy relief and to enhance support for diesel for the month of May 2026. This intervention comes at a critical time when rising fuel prices, driven by global instability and a weakened rand, continue to place severe pressure on workers, households and the broader economy. The PSA commends National Treasury and the Minister of Finance for acting decisively to protect ordinary South Africans from the worst effects of escalating fuel costs. Fuel price increases have a direct impact on the cost of living, influencing transport expenses, food prices, and access to essential services. This negatively affects workers including low to middle income household.

Of critical importance is the enhanced relief on diesel, given its essential role in public transport, logistics, food production, healthcare services, and electricity generation. By extending additional levy relief on diesel, government has taken an important step toward limiting secondary inflationary pressures that would otherwise indirectly erode workers' purchasing power and threaten job security. The PSA welcomes government's recognition of the temporary nature of the fuel levy relief and its consideration of fiscal sustainability. At the same time, the Union stresses that the current economic climate requires sustained, people-centred interventions to protect workers from external economic shocks beyond their control.

As the Trade Union for public servants across all spheres of government, the PSA calls on policymakers to ensure that future economic measures place affordability, service delivery, and employment stability at the forefront. Escalating fuel and living costs continue to be a central issue in wage negotiations and labour relations throughout the public sector. The PSA further calls for sustained engagement between government, labour and business on long-term solutions to fuel price instability, including the review of fuel price regulation mechanisms, investment in energy security, hybrid working arrangements and measures to strengthen the local economy.

The PSA reiterates its support for initiatives that provide immediate relief to workers and communities and reaffirms its commitment to advocating for economic policies that promote social justice, dignity and fairness for all workers in South Africa.

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