



**MEDIA RELEASE**                                  **PSA welcomes increase in National Minimum Wage**

DATE    9 February 2022

EMBARGO    None

ENQUIRIES    communication@psa.co.za

---

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the increase of the national minimum wage to R23.19 per hour. The announcement by the Minister of Employment and Labour follows a recent proposal by the National Minimum Wage Commission to increase domestic worker salaries to 100% of the national minimum wage.

The 6.9% increase will assist the most vulnerable workers in coping with the ever-increasing costs of basic needs such as food, electricity, and transportation. South Africa's food inflation is projected to trend at some 3.80% in 2022, and the petrol price has exceeded the R20 per litre, which has a direct bearing on transport costs. In addition, Eskom is applying for a 20.5% increase in the electricity price.

The PSA therefore calls on the Minister of Employment and Labour to seriously consider the equalisation of Expanded Public Works Program and Community Works Programme workers who are currently earning just over R12 per hour.

The PSA has repeatedly stated the salaries of Public Service employees have been overtaken by the inflation rate, which is currently at 5.9%. The PSA calls on government to consider the plight of its own employees during upcoming salary negotiations. The 6.9% increase in the minimum wage should guide government as such an increase is also required to assist public servants with increased basic living expenses. Public servants, despite the absence of salary increases, remain at forefront of combatting the COVID-19 pandemic and are still awaiting the outcome of the Constitutional Court ruling on the implementation of the last leg of PSCBC Resolution 1/2018.

It must further be borne in mind that public servants employ domestic workers, gardeners, child minders etc., who depend on them for a stable income. Their salaries determine the affordability of such dependent workers and disregard of this factor could result in deepening the country's unemployment crisis.

Whilst public-sector unions are finalising their demands for 2022 to be tabled shortly, the 6.9% increase in the national minimum wage makes the PSA hopeful that this trend and spirit will continue during Public Service salary negotiations.

END