

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes International Court of Justice recognition of right to strike as fundamental human right
DATE	25 May 2026
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the landmark pronouncement by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) affirming that the right to strike is protected under international law.

This historic development reinforces a long-standing principle upheld by workers and trade unions across the world that the right to strike is an essential component of freedom of association and collective bargaining.

For decades, the PSA has consistently defended the rights of public servants to organise, bargain and, where necessary, withdraw their labour as a last resort to advance fair working conditions, equitable remuneration, and dignity in the workplace. The ICJ's position strengthens this global consensus and sends a clear message that attempts to unduly restrict or criminalise strike action are inconsistent with international legal standards.

In South Africa, where the right to strike is already enshrined in the *Constitution*, this ruling adds further moral and legal weight to the protection of workers' rights. It should guide policymakers and employers to respect and uphold these rights, particularly in a climate where austerity measures and service-delivery pressures often place workers under severe strain.

The PSA calls on government and all social partners to engage in meaningful dialogue, prioritise fair labour practices, and avoid actions that undermine this fundamental right. Strikes remain a tool of last resort, but one that must remain protected to ensure balanced power relations in the workplace. The PSA will continue to advocate for the full realisation of workers' rights and defend the dignity and interests of public servants.

END