

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes North West High Court Judgement restoring funding for child-protection services
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decisive judgement by the North West High Court, directing the Department of Social Development to immediately restore and disburse outstanding subsidies to non-profit organisations (NPOs) providing child-protection services.

This ruling affirms a constitutional principle. The rights of children are not subject to budgetary convenience or administrative delay. Section 28 of the *Constitution* places the best interests of the child at the center of all state action. Any deviation from this standard constitutes a failure of governance. The unilateral withholding of subsidies destabilised the child-welfare system across the province. NPOs responsible for foster-care supervision, statutory interventions, diversion programmes, and emergency shelters faced imminent closure. Social workers and auxiliary staff rendered essential services without remuneration for months. This situation was unsustainable and unlawful.

The Court's intervention restores three critical pillars of the social protection framework. It secures operational continuity as organisations are now positioned to resume and stabilise frontline services for vulnerable children who rely on state-supported interventions for protection and care. It also safeguards professional capacity. Social workers, child and youth care practitioners, and support staff will receive overdue payments, preserving scarce skills within a sector already under strain. It furthermore reinforces institutional accountability. The judgement sends a clear message that contractual and statutory obligations cannot be suspended without lawful and rational basis.

The PSA expects the Department of Social Development to comply with the Court order without delay. Implementation must be immediate, transparent, and comprehensive. Any further hesitation will deepen harm and erode public trust. The PSA therefore calls for the immediate processing of all outstanding subsidy payments within an expedited timeframe to prevent further service disruption. Public disclosure of budget allocations is required along with a clear funding framework to ensure child-protection services are ring-fenced and insulated from future administrative failures. The establishment of a structured engagement platform between the Department and organised stakeholders is required to strengthen oversight, improve financial planning, and prevent recurrence of this crisis.

Public administration exists to serve the vulnerable. Excellence in governance is measured by consistency, accountability, and respect for constitutional mandates. The Department must now demonstrate these principles. The PSA is committed to defending the rights of public servants and safeguarding the integrity of social services in North West.

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