

MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes proposed extension of driver's licence validity period to ten years

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes government's proposal to extend the validity period of driver's licences from five years to ten years.

This long-overdue intervention responds to concerns raised over many years by civil society and road users regarding inefficiencies in the current renewal system. The proposed extension will significantly reduce the administrative burden on licencing centres, help address the persistent backlog in driver's licence renewals, and improve service delivery to the public. It will also enable licencing authorities to focus resources more effectively on other critical services, thereby reducing waiting times and improving operational efficiency.

For public servants, this initiative will provide much-needed financial relief. Renewing driver's licences every five years places an unnecessary financial burden on employees who are struggling with the rising cost of living, escalating electricity tariffs, fuel-price increases, inflation, and other household expenses. Extending the renewal period to ten years will reduce renewal costs over a driver's lifetime and leave workers with more disposable income.

The PSA believes that this reform demonstrates government's willingness to consider practical solutions that reduce unnecessary red tape whilst improving public services. The PSA, however, emphasises that the success of the initiative will depend on swift implementation and continued strengthening of licencing systems to ensure efficiency, integrity, and the elimination of corruption.

The PSA calls on government to ensure that the extension applies with immediate effect and covers all licences, including those already in circulation. The PSA encourages government to continue identifying similar practical measures that ease the financial and administrative burden on South Africans whilst enhancing the quality and accessibility of public services.

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