

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA welcomes SARS decision to insource cleaners**

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Sustained pressure by the Public Servants Association (PSA) has resulted in the South African Revenue Service (SARS) agreeing to insource cleaning services and 769 cleaners being appointed as permanent SARS employees from 31 October 2020.

The PSA, representing more than 5 300 SARS employees, as far back as 2018 in the bargaining forum demanded that cleaning and security services should be insourced. After extended discussions, SARS finally agreed with the PSA's position and will insource cleaning services with effect from 31 October 2020.

It was further agreed to conclude discussions on security services. The PSA is hopeful that these discussions will be concluded in the next few months and that these services be also then be insourced.

The insourcing will not result in a material increase in expenditure for SARS, but these appointments will change the lives of vulnerable employees. The appointment will provide these employees with an opportunity to contribute to a pension fund, access medical aid and group life cover. They will also access all benefits that current SARS employees receive and are guaranteed permanent employment.

Agreement was also reached that the identified employees will be provided with training to be upskilled and placed in vacancies in other business divisions when such vacancies arise. This will further reinforce the ideal of decent work for lower placed employees and get rid of tender schemes that only enrich individuals who are sucking blood of vulnerable workers without shame and often pay their employees weeks after month end. Government should also follow the example of SARS and get rid of outsourced services and employ cleaners and security staff in departments and agencies. At the same time the individual taxpayers base would increase for better revenue collection.

The PSA wishes to thank the SARS Commissioner and his management team who worked with the PSA to conclude the insourcing of cleaners. With the high unemployment rate in South Africa, the PSA is proud to associate with an organisation that took a decisive step to provide workers with job security and decrease unemployment.

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