

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes SARS one-time lifeline for taxpayers in debt: Calls for broader relief measures
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) acknowledges the recent announcement by the South African Revenue Service (SARS) offering a one-time lifeline to taxpayers burdened by debt.

This initiative, aimed at providing temporary relief to persons and businesses struggling to meet their tax obligations, is a welcome step in recognising the financial strain many South Africans continue to face in the wake of economic challenges, rising living costs, and post-pandemic recovery efforts. The fact that SARS is owed approximately R96 billion calls for innovative ways to address the challenge.

Whilst the PSA supports measures that promote compliance and ease the burden on taxpayers, the Union urges SARS to ensure that the implementation of this lifeline is transparent, accessible, and inclusive, particularly for lower-income earners and small businesses who are most vulnerable. The PSA further calls on SARS and the National Treasury to consider long-term structural reforms that address systemic issues in tax administration and economic inequality. Relief efforts must be both reactive and proactive in building a more resilient and equitable tax system.

The PSA also reiterates the Union's concern regarding the treatment of SARS employees who continue to work under challenging conditions whilst playing a critical role in revenue collection. The PSA calls on SARS to match its public-facing compassion with fair internal labour practices, including honouring wage agreements and improved working conditions. The PSA is committed to advocating for the rights of public servants and the broader interests of South African citizens.

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