

MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes Social Development outreach, but urges sustainable solutions to poverty and unemployment, in Delmas, Mpumalanga

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) noted the initiative by the Department of Social Development, the South African Social Security Agency, and the National Development Agency to roll out the Integrated Registration Outreach Programme in Delmas in Mpumalanga on 26 September 2025.

This programme brings services such as grant applications, reviews, SRD R370 enquiries, and access to various government departments and entities directly to communities that struggle with transport costs and distance. The PSA acknowledges that this programme will benefit an estimated 18 482 social-grant beneficiaries in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality.

Whilst the PSA supports efforts to bring government closer to citizens, the Union is concerned about the sustainability of such interventions. Reliance on social grants has increased owing to rising unemployment and poverty in Mpumalanga. Communities such as Delmas face serious social problems linked to economic exclusion, including substance abuse, crime, and teenage pregnancy. Once-off or periodic outreaches, whilst useful in the short term, do not address the root causes of unemployment, poor access to education, and limited job creation.

The PSA calls on government to implement sustainable job-creation programmes, particularly targeting youth and women in Mpumalanga. The PSA further urges government to strengthen safety nets by ensuring the permanent placement of social workers and community development officers in underprivileged areas. Long-term investment in infrastructure and skills development is essential to reduce dependency on social grants and empower citizens to build dignified livelihoods. The PSA emphasizes the importance of supporting public servants who deliver these services. Workers must be properly resourced, adequately supported, and protected from unsafe conditions when deployed to vulnerable communities. Without this support, service delivery will continue to face challenges and beneficiaries will remain underserved.

The PSA is committed to protecting the rights of workers and ensuring that government interventions improve the lives of citizens in a lasting and sustainable manner. Poverty and unemployment cannot be fought through grant dependency alone. Communities require real opportunities for economic participation and development.

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