

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA welcomes stabilisation of leadership at Department of Social Development and SASSA to ensure urgent focus on service delivery and employee support
<b>DATE</b>	9 June 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing thousands of employees in the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), welcomes the announcement by the Minister of Social Development on the finalisation of critical appointments in the Department and its entities.

The confirmation of permanent leadership, including the appointment of Peter Netshipale as Director-General and Themba Matlou as Chief Executive Officer of SASSA, marks a critical point toward restoring stability and improving governance in the social development sector. The PSA acknowledges the Minister's commitment to strengthening the capacity of the Department and its institutions to better serve South Africa's most vulnerable communities.

Whilst commending this progress, the PSA underscores the need for this leadership to prioritise long-standing operational challenges, including delayed payments, capacity constraints, and poor working conditions that continue to affect frontline employees. For sustainable and meaningful service delivery, the leadership must collaborate with employees and organised labour to resolve internal inefficiencies and ensure adequate resourcing of the system.

The PSA noted the continued rollout of the R370 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant, which remains a critical intervention amidst high unemployment and poverty. The Department is urged to ensure that the implementation of the SRD and the development of a Basic Income Support Framework are transparent, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of the working-age population who remain without secure income.

The PSA further welcomes the prioritisation of psychosocial services, the combatting of gender-based violence and femicide, and the employment of more social workers. These initiatives will, however, only succeed if adequate staffing, proper funding, and meaningful engagement with practitioners and unions are guaranteed. As the social development sector moves forward under the guidance of new leadership, the PSA reaffirms the Union's readiness to collaborate constructively with the Minister and departmental executives to advance employee rights and public service delivery.

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