

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA welcomes women empowerment by Minister in Presidency responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and calls for integration in public sector
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) applauds the Minister of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities' recent initiative to increase opportunities for South African women, particularly those in rural areas who are largely excluded from key development platforms.

This bold initiative is commendable and long overdue, as women in rural communities continue to face deep-rooted socio-economic challenges. Limited access to resources, education, and employment opportunities worsened the challenges. The Minister's intention to simplify government processes and policies marks a significant step forward as the systems in place are constructed without considering the experiences of women in rural areas, of which many lack financial access, education and digital capabilities. Accessible systems are essential to ensure that these women are not excluded from key development platforms and programs that are meant to uplift them.

The PSA urges the Minister to develop and implement mechanisms in a manner that reflects the realities. Women should be integrated into the labour market, especially in the public service, to assist in providing effective and efficient services to citizens.

South Africa has made efforts to promote gender equality, however, equality remains a challenge, especially in the workplace. Women are underrepresented in leadership positions and continue to face barriers that hinder their professional advancement. This is particularly evident in senior and executive positions in the public sector.

The PSA calls on the Department to act swiftly and decisively in implementing these policies. The success of this initiative will significantly improve the quality of life for women, especially those in marginalised communities. It will also advance the broader goals of equality and social justice. The PSA is ready to assist the Department in ensuring that these programs are successfully carried and assist the women most in need.

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