



MEDIA RELEASE	PSA concerned by continuous failures to improve the conditions of public service employees, as Human Rights Day is observed
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As the country commemorates Human Rights Day, the Public Servants Association (PSA) remains concerned regarding the human rights violations experienced by both citizens and public servants in the country, owing to a breakdown in managing state resources. This was again highlighted following the arrest of a Congolese national, who was found to be posing and practicing as a medical practitioner, whilst not being registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, endangering the lives of people seeking help.

“The PSA welcomes the arrest of this individual but calls for more to be done to ensure that all persons working as medical practitioners are registered, including foreign nationals who come to the country seeking opportunities. This situation highlights the need to continue to promote and protect human rights, as well as to enforce of the non-discrimination of these rights, as an undeniable responsibility of every South African as enshrined in the Constitution of the country. These rights are based on important principles, such as, dignity, fairness, respect and equality, designed to protect citizens and public servant’s workplace rights,” said PSA General Manager Ivan Fredericks.

“The PSA has been at the forefront, in not only raising human rights violations, but also in ensuring that steps are taken to protect public servants and the community at large,” added Mr Fredericks. Public servants are often forced to fulfil their duties, despite their workplace conditions not being up to standard, this is seen, when members complain about working in overcrowded prisons, ill-equipped hospitals and clinics, and schools with poor infrastructure,” added Mr Fredericks.

“All employees have rights in the workplace, including the right to privacy, fair compensation and freedom from discrimination. Those rights include the right to be free from discrimination based on age, gender, race, national origin or religion. In many cases, workplace discrimination is less blatant, often being subtler or more concealed in its execution. If your employer is a public authority, they must follow these principles,” added Mr Fredericks.

The PSA will continue to raise issues affecting the health and well-being of all public servants and of all South Africans.

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