

MEDIA RELEASE                      Public Service Day: PSA pays tribute to public servants and pledges commitment to ensure salary increases

DATE                                      23 June 2020

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Public Service Day is earmarked annually to commemorate and celebrate workers who are vital in keeping the economy and country going. The year 2020 has brought unprecedented challenges and the Public Servants Association (PSA) salutes all public servants, going even beyond the call of duty as the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public Service Day is commemorated in South Africa as the COVID-19 infection rate is 100 000 mark. Apart from risking their personal safety, public servants are also facing the insult of government's failure to implement the final part of their wage agreement to bring about meagre salary increases. The PSA is continuing its actions to ensure that the Minister for Public Service and Administration abides by the three-year salary agreement and that public servants receive their salary increases.

COVID-19 has thrown the Public Service into turmoil where a lack of clear direction and decisive action has sadly resulted in many public servants being infected and some paying the highest price. The lack of proper readiness plans and sanitation equipment, as well as shortages of personal protective equipment have exposed public servants in ways never known before.

The PSA repeats the Union's calls on government to enhance its preparedness and contingency plans to curb the spread of infections as more employees are set to return to work as the economy opens progressively. The PSA, whilst making every effort to ensure the health and safety of its 245 000 members, pays respect to public servants who lost their lives in the line of duty over the past year.

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