

MEDIA RELEASE **Public Service salaries: PSA’s patience with Minister for Public Service and Administration wearing thin**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has issued a stern warning regarding the continued failure by the Minister for Public Service and Administration, Mr Senzo Mchunu, to confirm that public servants will receive their negotiated salary increases that were due on 1 April 2020.

The PSA, which represents more than 240 000 public-sector employees, requested the State as employer months ago to confirm the wage increases for public servants based on a three-year agreement that was concluded with unions in 2018 to regulate salary increases for three years. The multi-term arrangement was intended to give Government security on the percentages of increases and to ensure budgetary provision for the increases.

The Minister was also requested to confirm the increases but has failed to provide the PSA with confirmation that all public servants will receive their increase by 15 April 2020. This uncertainty comes at a critical time when the Minister and Government are calling on employees who are at the forefront of delivering essential services to the public during COVID-19 pandemic. Employees work under testing conditions and are exposed to infection because of a shortage of personal protective equipment.

The PSA has, to date, cooperated with the Minister by ensuring that the Union’s members continue to render services despite various challenging conditions that pose a health and safety risks. The Union is, however, aware that its members’ patience is fast running out. The PSA regards the Minister’s ongoing failure to provide a firm commitment that public servants will receive their salary increases as contained in a binding collective agreement as seriously disrespectful.

The PSA has already engaged its attorneys to approach the Court for relief and repeated its call on Government to abide by the agreement as failure to implement the last leg of the three-year salary agreement without delay will have serious repercussions.

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