

MEDIA RELEASE	Public Service salary negotiations: PSA regards Minister's remarks as "out of order"
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) condemns the misinformation that was presented by the Minister of Public Service and Administration, Senzo Mchunu, in a media statement on public service wage negotiations issued on 18 May 2021.

The Minister pointed out that the PSA walked out of the facilitation process, which is factually incorrect. The fact is that the PSA was excluded from the facilitation process after the Union declared a dispute. The Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council thus excluded the PSA from all processes relating to the current Public Service wage negotiations.

The PSA, which represents more than 235 000 public-sector employees, initially participated in the facilitation process with the rest of labour, but later discovered that Government as employer was merely delaying the entire process and no further improved revised offer was forthcoming. The PSA was thus left with no option but to declare a dispute.

The PSCBC continued with the facilitation process and the PSA was not invited to this process after it had declared a dispute. The PSA is, however, of the opinion that it should not have been excluded from the process despite declaring a dispute. The latest offer was presented to all other unions, besides the PSA and Sapu.

The PSA, in filing its dispute, will embark in a conciliation process that still entails finding a solution to break the deadlock. The PSA remains committed to finding a solution to the matter but is, however, not willing to wait for an indefinite period for the demands to be met. Public servants have not received a salary increase in 2020, despite a collective agreement being in place that should have ensured an increase. Government reneged on its responsibilities in this regard, forcing the PSA to turn to the Constitutional Court where the matter will be heard on 24 August 2021.

The PSA therefore calls on Minister Mchunu to respect the PSA's stance and ensure that accurate information is presented to members of the public. The PSA further advises the Minister to respect the collective bargaining process that is currently taking place at the PSCBC rather than launching incorrect media campaigns.

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