

MEDIA RELEASE Public Service strike: PSA considering its options

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

In the wake of government's failure to respond to public servants' call for a decent salary increase, the Public Servants Association (PSA) led the labour movement and commenced with lunch-hour picketing in November 2022. This was followed by a nationwide strike on 10 November 2022 and several protest actions with other unions. Certain media houses have deliberately misled the public by indicating that the PSA has accepted the 3% wage offer. The is far from the truth as the employer unilaterally implemented the 3% wage offer whilst the PSA was in the midst of industrial action. The PSA has halted its industrial action taking into account that majority of Government Departments will be closed, and majority of members are already on leave for the festive season.

The PSA is a mandate driven organisation which only acts upon its member's mandate. PSA members mandated the PSA to intensify its industrial action and the PSA is working towards that at the start of the new year. Public servants' anger has reached an uncontrollable level and they are prepared for an indefinite strike. The PSA is considering calling on its members in entities such as the South African Revenue Service and SASSA to join the strike. Workers are bleeding as they are subjected to poor working conditions, diminishing benefits, dysfunctional working tools, inadequate human resources, and poor security.

Public servants are also suffering financially owing to the rising cost of living and stagnant salaries. They will not be deterred by the implementation of the 'no-work, no-pay' rule or court interdicts. Government ran to court to prevent workers from demonstrating against a meagre 3%-salary increase. The PSA warns government that court interdicts will not stop workers standing up for their rights and will only agitate them further. Workers are prepared to fight fire with fire and bring the country to a standstill. Government is reminded that every worker has the right to strike and its blunt refusal to conclude a minimum-service agreement to also allow essential-service workers to exercise their right, is a violation of the Constitution.

The PSA is determined to continue with actions to protect public servants' rights, that are under attack by an arrogant government that can renege from a signed collective agreement. The PSA will soon announce plans to intensify its actions. The PSA advises President Cyril Ramaphosa to heed this warning as public servants have reached the end of their patience with government.

The PSA calls on the media to be cautious on how they report as it creates confusion amongst workers by the publishing of information which is not factually correct.

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