

MEDIA RELEASE	Public Service wage dispute: Labour Appeal Court to hear PSA case on 2 December 2020
DATE	15 October 2020
EMBARGO	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents more than 240 000 public servants, has received a set-down notice for the Public Service wage dispute to be heard before the Labour Appeal Court as a Court of First instance on 2 December 2020.

Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council Resolution *1/2018* made provision for a three-year agreement on salary adjustments and the improvements to conditions of service for public servants. Government, however, reneged on the final year of the agreement by not paying public servants their salary increases that were due on 1 April 2020. Government cited various reasons for not paying these salary increases, including unaffordability and, more disturbingly, that Government negotiators did not have a mandate to sign the salary agreement back in 2018.

The PSA, owing to the urgency of the matter, previously approached the Registrar of the Labour Court and requested an expedited date. The PSA is pleased that this request was favourably considered to bring this matter to finality. The PSA is confident that the matter will be resolved by the Labour Appeal Court.

The Court Notice further provides that all heads of arguments must be filed by 20 November 2020 and that the matter will be dealt with by way of video conference, unless parties agree to file written submissions, which is unlikely in a matter of this magnitude.

The PSA is, however, extremely disappointed to note that the President Ramaphosa failed to make mention in his Economic Recovery Plan of how he intends to honour the salary agreement and pay public servants the salaries due to them. It is further regrettable to note the lack of sympathy and appreciation for public servants who for the past nine months have been at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic. A first step towards recognizing public servants' role is for Government to ensure that they receive the increases they are lawfully entitled to.

END

