

MEDIA RELEASE Public Service wages: PSA prepares 2021/22-demands and warns

government on two-pronged sting

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), one of the largest Unions in the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council, is preparing to table salary demands for the 2021/22-financial year as public servants continue to await payment of increases that were due in April 2020.

The PSA, representing more than 240 000 public servants, has filed a dispute at the Labour Court to compel government to implement the last leg of the salary agreement that was signed in 2018. The PSA informed the Office of the State Attorney that it is in agreement to draft a letter to the Judge President of the Labour Court to jointly request an expedited hearing of the application and concomitant directives before either the Labour Appeal Court in terms of section 175 of the *Labour Relations Act* or the Labour Court .The PSA believes that this will expedite the matter and further delays will be circumvented.

Despite the delay in this matter that is affecting public servants and their families, the collective bargaining process must continue. The PSA is thus preparing its demands for the 2021/22-financial year. It is crucial for such demands be tabled before the budget vote is presented in February 2021 to influence the allocation of funds to afford public servants an increase.

The PSA is aware of the global financial climate and constraints on the State fiscus that were intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is therefore important that a fair balance of needs be maintained to ensure that public servants can maintain their purchase power in the face of soaring costs of food, water, electricity, fuel and transport. The PSA's 2021/22-wage demand will, amongst others, focus on a real wage increase and various non-monetary items. These include remote working and the creation of childcare facilities at workplaces.

The PSA, however, warns government to brace itself for a two-pronged sting as the Labour Court action unfolds with all unions on board and a looming total shutdown of services should it not accede to salary demands for implementation on 1 April 2021.

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