

MEDIA RELEASE SITA: Looming strike to interrupt Government IT services over festive season

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which is the majority Union at the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), warns that State departments are set to experience information technology (IT) interruptions as the possibility of strike action is mounting in the wake of SITA's "offer" of a 0%-salary increase for its employees.

The PSA has rejected this offer, which SITA ascribes to merely complying with the Minister of Finance's instruction that no salary increases be granted to employees. SITA is not a government department and it is not entirely funded by the state. It is therefore disturbing to note that the Minister of Finance could issue such a directive to an entity that is not fully funded by government.

Parties deadlocked on wage negotiations and a dispute has been referred to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration for conciliation.

The PSA and its members have been extremely patient during the negotiation process and afforded SITA ample opportunity to present a reasonable salary offer. The 0% offer is an insult to employees who during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensured that SITA could provide vital IT services to all Government departments, including the South African Police Services and the Department of Home Affairs. These departments will also depend on these services in the coming festive season to ensure effective service delivery.

The PSA urges SITA to urgently find a solution to prevent industrial action by its employees that will cause severe disruptions to government's IT systems.

END