

MEDIA RELEASE Six months after presidential pronouncement, no employment of Labour Inspectors by Department of Employment of Labour

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It is ironic that at the Department of Employment and Labour, six months after the presidential pronouncement to appoint 10 000 Labour Inspectors, to date, paralysis still persists in a Department that is key to eradicating unemployment in South Africa.

The Minister of Employment and Labour confirmed to *News24* that, to date, no recruitment has taken place for these permanent posts. The PSA strongly condemns the Department's ongoing apathy and administrative paralysis regarding the appointment of these additional permanent Labour Inspectors. Despite the explicit pronouncement by President Cyril Ramaphosa committing government to immediately scale up the Inspectorate, the Department has failed to deliver, leaving millions of workers unprotected. The President's directive was clear to recruit, train, and deploy 10 000 permanent Inspectors to address the chronic staff shortage where a mere 2 300 Inspectors are forced to oversee an economy of over 17 million workers.

Months after this national announcement, the Department has, instead, offered implementation delays, and budgetary excuses rather than securing boots on the ground. Failure to appoint Inspectors directly exposes vulnerable workers, particularly in high-risks sectors such as hospitality, security, mining, and domestic work to continued statutory violations, sub-minimum wages, unsafe environments, and unfair labour practices. Many employers continue to disregard the *Basic Conditions of Employment Act* and *Occupational Health and Safety Act* with no accountability as they know the risk of inspection remains almost non-existent.

Conflating long-term permanent recruitment with temporary internship schemes or hiding behind administrative delays undermines public trust and sabotages presidential directives. The PSA calls on the Minister of Employment and Labour to immediately publish a clear, time-tracked budget allocations with National Treasury, and begin mass recruitment of Labour Inspectors without further delays.

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