

**MEDIA RELEASE** SONA: PSA anticipate more detail in the budget speech  
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) cautiously welcomes the plans announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his 2020 for the introduction of performance agreements for Cabinet Ministers.

The PSA as a representative union of more than 240 000 public service employees, views this action to be progressive especially in ensuring accountability from the top in terms of service delivery. This will also deal with maladministration and corruption in the public service which is mostly blamed on junior officials. The fact that this will be implemented within a month from now indicates that the President understand the urgency to fix the public service. Therefore, the PSA calls on the President to include provisions in their performance agreement that would oblige Minister's to account for wasteful expenditure in various departments, State Owned Enterprises and Municipalities.

The President also mentioned the constrained energy supply, the role of Eskom and alluded that load shedding will be inevitable for some time to come. This is a result of Eskom's inability to service its power stations owing to the maladministration, corruption and state capture within the SOEs. The PSA cautions the President not to allow state pensions to be a solution to bail out Eskom as alluded in recent reports. The PSA eagerly awaits the more detailed plans to be outlined during the budget vote speech by the Minister of Finance.

The PSA is ready to fight and protect the irresponsible use of pension monies to bail out Eskom and further to protect the gains achieved through collective bargaining over years to ensure public servants' conditions of service are not eroded as an expense to mitigate the effects of inefficiencies and corruption that eroded the growth of the economy. There cannot be talk about economic growth and improving service delivery to communities among the ongoing uncertainty created about the security of public servants' pension and their conditions of service.

Proper discussion needs to be ensued to address first recovery of funds lost due to corruption, curbing of frivolous court action at the expense of tax payers without repercussions and reconsideration of reduction of the number of Foreign Missions which are used to conceal politicians and officials that have committed some kind of misconduct at the expense of the country. The PSA is solution-driven and as a stakeholder in government, the Union is always willing to engage on such matter to find a suitable solution that will not victimise state employees in the process.

The PSA supports the President's inclusive growth approach but is concerned that youth unemployment, profitable SOEs and NHI plans will not be successful unless corruption is eroded in both public and private sectors.

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