

MEDIA RELEASE Unemployment: PSA calls for action

DATE 15 May 2019

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about the increase in the unemployment rate as announced by Statistic South Africa (Stats SA) on 14 May 2019.

It is reported that unemployment rate increased to 27.6% from 27.1%. Most of the job losses were in the construction industry (142 000 jobs lost) and financial services (94 000 positions lost).

The PSA reiterated the Union's previous call on President Cyril Ramaphosa to expedite the appointment of people with integrity to key positions. Vacancies in the Public Service should also be filled as a matter of urgency to provide a much-needed injection to service delivery to communities. These measures will inspire business and investor confidence, which will ultimately have a positive impact on employment. The blame for rising unemployment is solely on government that has the responsibility to formulate an action plan and be held accountable for failure to grow the economy.

The PSA pointed out that with most of the workforce earning below what the Union views as acceptable to sustain their families given the high cost of living, the rise in unemployment further contributes to poverty and a dependency on social grants. In the last quarter of 2018 according to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data for South Africa, the South African economy grew by 2.2% taking the country out of recession. According to economists, the GDP needs to grow by 3% to 5% to cut unemployment.

With the elections having been concluded, the PSA called for a Cabinet with the skills and expertise to instil confidence in the governance of the country and lead South Africans to economic prosperity.

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