

MEDIA RELEASE **Workers' Day 2020: PSA pays tribute to workers at COVID-19 frontline**

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The world is still reeling in shock in dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that has claimed more than 212 000 lives worldwide. Workers' Day on 1 May 2020 will go down in history for the sacrifices by workers at the frontline of the battle against the devastating pandemic.

In this battle essential service workers, mainly public servants, are at the frontline of combatting the outbreak in South Africa. The Public Servants Association (PSA) would like to thank all workers whose efforts are carrying the country during these times. Those who have already paid the highest price in the execution of their duties will be remembered as heroes.

The PSA has been a driving force in ensuring employers' compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)* even before COVID-19 arrived in South Africa. This resulted in the closure of various unsafe government buildings. This mission intensified to protect employees' health and safety in the face of COVID-19. The PSA has since confirmation of the first positive case in the country been a champion in ensuring that workers are adequately protected and that their rights are respected in line with legislation, regulations and guidelines. The PSA continues to monitor and enforce compliance related to personal protective equipment, transport, work permits, danger allowances, etc. The PSA is also ready to protect workers as lockdown restrictions are lifted and new challenges emerge. The PSA also cautions government not to exploit its employees by carelessly subjecting them unsafe working conditions.

At the same time, the PSA is committed to ensure that the state as employer honours its overdue salary increase obligations towards its employees – the same public servants who have been and will continue to be driving forces in curbing the spread of the virus.

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