

MEDIA RELEASE **Youth Day 2021: New challenges and concerns**

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Youth Day commemorates the events on 16 June 1976, when South Africa's history was changed by young people. On the 45th anniversary of this event, the Public Servants Association (PSA) calls for all stakeholders to unite in efforts to rights that must be protected and promote to assist youth to overcome new obstacles and challenges.

Reported cases or incidents of gangsterism, drug abuse and neglect, particularly directed against children and youth, require joint action of all South Africans to realise the rights as set out in section 28 of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution. Chapter 9 Institutions such as the SAHRC, government, civil society, faith-based communities, business, academia and the rest of society should galvanise to create a society that places the interests of young people first.

The struggle of the youth of 45 years ago was for equality and basic human rights to create opportunity for advancement out of poverty into a better life. The struggle of that generation has immensely contributed and culminated in the constitutional democracy South Africa has today. The present challenges facing the youth today sadly still include unemployment, poverty and thus limited access to further education and training. Additional scourges include crime, human trafficking, substance abuse, and violence.

On Youth Day, the PSA assures the country's youth that the Union of Choice will continue its efforts to professionalise the Public Service to ensure that today's youth will develop into the proud, teachers, nurses, police officers and government officials in service of South Africa.

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