

FOR PSA MEMBERS: *GENERAL 9/2022*

25-05-2022

Africa Day 2022

Corruption as well as the misuse and maladministration of national resources have driven many African countries and their economies to near destruction owing to irresponsible leadership. The continent has the highest number of young people - a group of people also facing challenges such high unemployment rates and unfair labour practises, even in the Public Service.

With the continent celebrating the 59th anniversary of Africa Day, the PSA calls for responsible leadership from all governments to ensure that every citizen has access to public services, whilst protecting workers' tax contributions.

Africa's progress is hampered by individuals who serve their own interests at the expense of society. In South Africa, the Public Service is struggling to retain skilled workers or fill critical vacancies. Yet, according to a report by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, the country lost an estimated R1.5 trillion through corruption between 2014 and 2019, money which should have been invested in infrastructure maintenance and development, fair remuneration of public servants, and stabilising state-owned enterprises, which continue to receive costly bailouts to the detriment of the economy, public services, citizens, and public servants.

Inefficient management prevails where cadres without the necessary skills and experience are placed in critical positions, creating an environment that fuels fraud and corruption. In addition, despite lip service by government, those implicated in these criminal activities have yet to face legal consequences.

The PSA calls on government to urgently deal with the root causes of the numerous challenges facing the Public Service, resulting in a cycle of never-ending service-delivery protests, money being stolen from the economy delaying job creation, and demoralised public servants. On Africa Day, the PSA appeals to leaders on all levels of society to take responsibility for the direction and future of the continent.

The PSA wants to take this opportunity to wish all employees who are unwell owing to COVID-19 a safe and speedy recovery.

GENERAL MANAGER