

FOR PSA MEMBERS: SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICE (SARS)

19-07-2022

## Update: SARS strike

### Calling of volunteers at ports of entry amidst strike

Members are aware that labour embarked on a strike after rejecting the employer's offensive, ridiculous 1.39%-salary increase offer. The strike has led to closure of more than 30 SARS branches with border posts hit the worst. Although the employer initially refused to acknowledge the impact of the strike, it finally confirmed that the strike has caused major disruption in the provision of service delivery by SARS.

In an attempt to provide service delivery, the employer has redeployed some managers to assist at ports of entry. These persons lack the necessary experience, which might lead to illicit goods entering the country. The PSA has recently learnt that SARS has issued a communique to invite non-striking employees to assist as volunteers at border gates. It is regrettable that instead of resolving the wage dispute, SARS chose to act irresponsibly by recruiting unqualified and inexperienced volunteers to work at border posts. The PSA is of the opinion that such volunteers should think carefully before deciding to report to a port of entry as they are not trained and do not have knowledge of the *Customs Duty Act 30 of 2014* nor the internal policies that guide a customs official. Volunteers should not subject themselves to possible disciplinary action by failing to adhere to the strict standards customs officials are held against.

Members are further reminded that they are within their right to embark on a strike as unions have tried everything in their power, but pleas and calls were met with arrogance by SARS. SARS employees must not be intimidated by employer's threat as the strike is protected and the PSA will do everything in its power to protect and promote the rights and interests of workers. The strike will continue until a better offer is tabled for consideration by members. Members will be informed of developments.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website ([www.psa.co.za](http://www.psa.co.za)), send an email to [ask@psa.co.za](mailto:ask@psa.co.za), or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

GENERAL MANAGER