



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL 22/2026**

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Women's Day 2026: Advancing rights, justice, and action for all women

The PSA joins South Africans in commemorating National Women's Day on 9 August 2026 and reaffirms the Union's commitment to advancing the rights, dignity, empowerment, and well-being of women across the Country.

The PSA is hosting the Union's National Women's Day 2026 event in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, under the theme: "Rights, Justice and Action for All Women". The theme highlights the importance of accelerating efforts to achieve meaningful gender equality and ensuring that all women can fully enjoy their constitutional rights and opportunities.

National Women's Day honours the bravery of the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings in 1956 to protest against apartheid pass laws. Their courage and determination remain a powerful symbol of resistance and continue to inspire action towards a society free from discrimination, inequality, violence, and exclusion.

As a Union representing public-sector employees, the PSA recognises the vital role that women play in workplaces, communities, and families. Women form a significant part of the public service and contribute immensely to the delivery of services that support South Africa's social and economic development. Whilst progress has been made in advancing women's rights, many challenges persist. Gender-based violence and femicide, workplace discrimination, unequal access to opportunities, economic hardship, and underrepresentation in leadership positions continue to affect women across the Country. The PSA is steadfast in advocating gender equality, fair labour practices, safe working environments, equal pay for work of equal value, and greater opportunities for women's advancement.

The PSA calls on government, employers, and all stakeholders to cooperate to remove barriers that limit women's potential. Achieving lasting change requires collective action, accountability, and sustained commitment to promoting equality, justice, and empowerment for all women.

On National Women's Day, the PSA encourages all South Africans to honour the sacrifices of women who play an active role in creating a society free from violence, discrimination, and inequality.

The PSA especially extends the Union's appreciation to all women in the public sector for their dedication, resilience, leadership, and invaluable contribution to building stronger workplaces, communities, and a better South Africa.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER