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PSA SHOP STEWARD NEWSLETTER

Shop Stewards: Driving the PSA Legacy Forward

As the Public Servants Association (PSA) celebrates 106 years of dedicated service to public-sector employees on 7 July 2026, the PSA reflect not only on a proud history of achievement, but also on the people who continue to make the Union of Choice a powerful force in workplaces across South Africa. Among these are the PSA's shop stewards - the front-line leaders who give practical meaning to the Union's values and mandate every day.

For more than a century, the PSA has championed fairness, dignity, justice, and improved conditions of service for public servants. From advancing employee benefits and fighting for better salaries to promoting safer workplaces and protecting labour rights, the PSA's successes have been built on the collective efforts of members, officials, and, importantly, shop stewards. Shop stewards are the heart of workplace representation. They are often the first point of contact for members seeking guidance, support, or intervention. They listen to concerns, provide advice, identify workplace challenges, and ensure that members are not alone when facing unfair treatment or labour-related disputes. Through their dedication and commitment, shop stewards transform the PSA's values into action where it matters most - in the workplace. The role of a shop steward has never been more important. Public servants continue to face numerous challenges, including budget constraints, increasing workloads, staff shortages, deteriorating infrastructure, and the rising cost of living. At the same time, rapid technological advancement is changing the nature of work and demanding new skills and approaches. In this environment, strong and informed workplace leaders are essential to ensuring that members' rights are protected and their voices are heard.

As trusted representatives of the PSA, shop stewards play a crucial role in strengthening workplace democracy and building confidence among members. Their presence reassures members that the Union stands ready to defend their rights, promote fair labour practices, and hold employers accountable. Every successful workplace intervention, every dispute resolved, and every member supported reinforces confidence in the PSA and strengthens the Union as a whole.

As the PSA moves towards 2030, shop stewards are called upon to continue leading with integrity, professionalism, and courage. This means embracing continuous learning, staying informed about labour developments, and adapting to changing workplace realities. It also means encouraging member participation, building unity, and helping to develop the next generation of workplace leaders. The PSA's legacy of 106 years is not merely a story of past achievements. It is a living legacy that is carried forward every day by committed representatives who choose to serve others. Shop stewards are custodians of that legacy. They embody the PSA's commitment to fairness, accountability, service excellence, and respect for human dignity. As the PSA celebrates this milestone, the union thanks every shop steward for their dedication and sacrifice. Your leadership strengthens the Union, empowers members, and contributes to a capable and ethical public service. Let us continue to forge ahead with pride, determination, and a shared commitment to serving members with excellence. The legacy continues - and shop stewards remain at the forefront of that journey.

Image:Freepik