

MEDIA RELEASE	2018 Public Service wage agreement: PSA welcomes AIDC's <i>Amicus Curiae</i> application to Constitutional Court
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 235 000 public servants, welcomes the application by the Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC), as a friend of the court in challenging the non-implementation of clause 3.3 of a 2018 Public Service wage agreement.

The matter is expected to be heard on 24 August 2021 at the Constitutional Court with the PSA challenging Government's decision to default in 2020 on the final year of the 2018-wage agreement.

In the AIDC's application, the organisation plans to argue that the Labour Appeal Court's decision, which held that the cutting of the public service wage bill was part of the economic recovery, was fundamentally neo-liberal. The purpose of its application is to ensure that the Court is mindful that neo-liberalism does not creep into its reasoning at the expense of public servants' Constitutional rights. The reason for this matter being before the Court appears to be Government's failure in collective bargaining. Government agreed to successive, multi-term collective agreements on terms and conditions of employment.

As public-sector unions seek to hold government to concluded agreements, government turns to the courts to rescue it from the consequences of its inability or unwillingness to properly engage in collective bargaining. In so doing, it threatens to destroy the very fabric of collective bargaining.

The PSA is confident its stance in approaching the Constitutional Court for relief will succeed and that justice will prevail in protecting the rights and interests of employees.

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