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| **MEDIA RELEASE** | **Budget 2022: PSA calls for balanced spending to restore social justice** |
| **DATE** | 27 January 2022 |
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the Minister of Finance's invitation to South Africans to give suggestions for the upcoming budget, particularly on government spending, the large budget deficit, and possible new sources of tax revenues.

The PSA, representing close on 240 000 public-sector employees, calls on the Minister to ensure that more funds are allocated to fill critical posts in the Public Service, uplift education and maintain infrastructure. In addition, sufficient funds must be provided to enable the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to ensure successful prosecutions in the country's efforts to root out disabling fraud and corruption. Investigations by the Special Investigating Unit stemming from the Zondo Commission outcomes must be prioritised to ensure prosecutions by the NPA and the recovery of monies to the public purse. This investment will assist in deterring corrupt activities and ensuring accountability.

At the same time, sufficient budget for policing is critical to ensure sufficient staffing to address the country's alarming crime rate amidst reports of a police force that has decreased by some 18 000 police officers since 2010. Border Management is further in urgent need of funding to support operations in ensuring a secured borderline as illegal trading and trafficking have a direct impact on violent crimes that are ravaging the country.

The PSA further proposes that adequate money be allocated to the Department of Basic Education to eradicate pit toilets and other inhumane circumstances at too many schools. The lack of running water at most schools in rural areas is a disgrace and a violation of the Constitution of South Africa. In addition, the general safety of the school environment is further critical in supporting quality teaching and learning. Decaying government infrastructure poses a threat to the health and safety of employees and members of the public. The PSA will continue its endeavours to resolve these matters.

The PSA therefore again calls upon the Minister of Finance to strike a balance between national spending priorities and heed to the Union's call to restore social justice by providing the necessary funding for these issues to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

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