

MEDIA RELEASE **COVID-19: PSA calls on all South African employers to assist in curbing spike in infections**

DATE 18 June 2021

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association, representing more than 230 000 public-sector employees, is sympathetic of attempts to balance the safety of citizens against COVID-19 and the economic situation the country.

It is a difficult task to ensure health and safety whilst also guarding against job losses and loss of income. The rapid rise in the infection rate is having serious repercussions on the already strained health system. The Public Service is key in all countries to ensure that the government brings growth and stability to maintain society. Should these structures collapse, a country will not be able to sustain itself and chaos will erupt. It is therefore in the best interest of a country and its citizens that extra measures are put in place, especially in the Public Service, to ensure that employees are safeguarded against further COVID-19 infections.

The PSA therefore calls on President Cyril Ramaphosa to implement rotation plans of public servants having to physically report at the workplace with immediate effect and that where services can be rendered from home, that it must become compulsory. This will ensure that as many as possible public servants who are yet to be vaccinated are protected against exposure and that a functional government is maintained. The PSA further proposes that consideration be given to reduce the daily number of members of the public who will be allowed to be served by an office owing to the reduction in staff to ensure rotational services and shorter exposure time as most citizens have also not been vaccinated yet.

The PSA highly regards the health and well-being of citizens and all efforts must be made to safeguard them. South Africa has an opportunity to be amongst the leading countries in setting an example through good stewardship and specific policy measures aimed at cushioning the most vulnerable in society, bolster the public-health system, and re-ignite the economy.

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