

MEDIA RELEASE **Heritage Day: PSA celebrating unity**

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On Heritage Day 2024, the Public Servants Association (PSA) pays tribute to the rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and histories that define the resilient South African nation, whilst celebrating the power of unity.

Heritage Day is a celebration of the past and a recognition of the unity that binds people together. The PSA continues to champion the values of unity and solidarity amongst public servants. The PSA, celebrating more than 104 years as a Union in service of public-sector employees, has witnessed the power of unity.

The PSA's collective achievements in 2024, despite obstacles, are a testament to the strength that comes from standing together with a shared purpose. Unity is not merely an ideal, but the very foundation of the PSA as a successful Union. The PSA's efforts to uphold the highest standards of integrity, governance, and service excellence have been reinforced by the support of a strong membership. The PSA continues to demonstrate resilience, courage, and a deep commitment to the values of loyalty, transparency, respect, ethical conduct, consistency, and service excellence.

The PSA, by nature represents a heritage for the Union's more than 245 000 members and shop stewards. This legacy has been built over 104 years of professional services to public-sector employees. The PSA has ensured improved working conditions, fair remuneration, and the protection of public servants' rights and interests. Without the PSA, as a beacon of hope, the future of public servants will be compromised. In 1956, the PSA's efforts resulted in the implementation of a housing subsidy scheme for public servants. In 1967, the PSA ensured that a medical scheme was introduced in the public service. This was followed in 1969 by the introduction of state housing guarantees, which enabled public servants to obtain property without a deposit. The PSA will continue to protect and preserve this legacy and heritage for future generations, ensuring that the gains of the past century continue to yield positive returns.

Heritage Day is a reminder that South Africa's strength lies in its ability to unite diverse people through a shared vision. Public servants play a crucial role in this regard by ensuring that the needs of citizens are met. The PSA believes that by embracing a shared heritage, the nation can continue to build a future where every public servant feels valued and respected in dignified service of the country.

On Heritage Day, the PSA calls on all South Africans to embrace unity as the key to the South Africa's success. The PSA remains committed to fostering a sense of belonging and service pride amongst public servants whilst protecting and promoting their rights and interests.

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