

MEDIA RELEASE **Heritage Day 2021: PSA calls for unity**

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As South Africa commemorates the country's cultural diversity, traditions and backgrounds on Heritage Day, the Public Servants Association (PSA), calls on all South Africans to unite in efforts to build a heritage that future generations will be able to proudly celebrate.

Celebrating a rich 101-year heritage of service to public-sector employees and professionalism, the PSA calls for the protection of gains made in the advancement of workers' rights. Especially the heritage of collective bargaining is worthy of protection as this represents a cornerstone in maintaining labour peace and improving work conditions. The threat caused by employers diverting or abandoning collective agreements, as experienced by government's failure to implement the final leg of salary increases for public servants in 2020, must not be condoned. Should this practise continue, it will open the door for the exploitation of workers, which cannot be tolerated in a democratic society. Efforts to eradicate the real causes of the country's economic woes need to be intensified. PSA shop stewards need to be capacitated to ensure that they maintain and protect the traditions and culture of the PSA without fear and favour.

South Africa's heritage is the foundation of the country's identity and serves as a guide to the future. The PSA appeals to all South Africans to protect the heritage of the labour movement, its history, and culture in search of mutual understanding and constructive cooperation.

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