

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **Home Affairs: PSA objects to mooted reclassification as security department**

**DATE**                                      20 May 2022

**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                             communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), as the Union representing the majority of employees at the Department of Home Affairs, is disturbed by statements made by the Minister of Home Affairs regarding an intention to change the nature of the Department into a security department.

The PSA regards the statements as premature and disingenuous whilst the matter is still pending at the bargaining chamber for negotiation with labour. The Department was expected to report back to labour on the review of the working-time arrangement since the PSA and the Department could not agree on this aspect. The Department is thus regarded to be engaging in bad faith. The Constitutional Court directed parties to negotiate on the matter in the appropriate forum. The PSA maintains its position that the Department must pay overtime for Saturday work. The introduction of this new *Home Affairs Bill* is thus objected to in its current form.

The PSA has full understanding for the need of members of the public to receive services, but employees' conditions of service cannot be compromised. The PSA is willing to reopen negotiations to find a solution to the impasse. The PSA will, however, continue to advocate for improved service conditions, should the Department continue with its plans. The PSA will not settle for anything less than improved working conditions of service, including a better remuneration model.

The PSA urges the Department to avoid unnecessary legal battles or strike action, which may ensue from this matter and rather consider meaningful, constructive engagements with labour to reach consensus in the interest of service delivery.

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