

**MEDIA RELEASE**

North West Parks and Tourism: PSA demands immediate action on salary non-payment and calls for removal of provincial MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism

**DATE**

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**EMBARGO**

None

**ENQUIRIES**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged by the ongoing failure of the North West Parks and Tourism Board to pay its employees on time, despite expectation that payments would be made on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

This delay has caused significant financial hardship and distress for employees, and the PSA is calling for immediate intervention to resolve this matter. The MEC of the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism (DEDECT) previously in a media statement dismissed these salary concerns as a "myth". This dismissive attitude undermines the real struggles faced by employees and reflects a concerning level of incompetence in handling the financial and operational challenges at state entities under the MEC's control. Adding to the instability, the MEC has consistently changed the CEOs of the North West Parks and Tourism Board, resulting in a lack of continuity in leadership. This frequent turnover has created an environment of uncertainty, leaving employees without the stability and direction they need. These constant shifts in management also create a major barrier to address ongoing challenges at the entity and ensure effective governance.

The PSA calls on the Premier of the North West to intervene with decisive action. Given the MEC's failure to effectively manage the situation and her ongoing interference with leadership appointments, the PSA demands that she be removed from this position. Her actions are contributing to a climate of instability and dysfunction that is undermining the operation of vital state entities in the region.

The PSA, in addition to demanding immediate payment of all outstanding salaries, urges the North West Parks and Tourism Board to provide employees with clear and transparent communication about the status of future payments. The PSA further requests a meeting with the acting CEO and relevant authorities to discuss long-term solutions that will prevent these issues from recurring.

Should these issues not be addressed promptly and satisfactorily, the PSA will be forced to explore other legal avenues to compel the employer to fulfil its obligations. The PSA will not hesitate to take necessary steps to ensure that the rights of the Union's members are upheld, and that the employer complies with its responsibilities under the law. The PSA is committed to advocating for the best interests of the Union's members and trusts that under new leadership, the North West Parks and Tourism Board will prioritise the well-being of its employees and work towards resolving ongoing challenges.

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