

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA calls for immediate implementation of remote work for public servants in areas affected by continuous rain

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ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) urges government to immediately implement remote work for public servants in areas of South Africa that have been affected by heavy rains and flooding.

Recent and ongoing heavy rains in parts of the country have affected already compromised road infrastructure, impacting on the movement of people. The implementation of remote work will ensure the safety and well-being of affected employees and will minimise the risk of accidents and injuries owing to using dangerous roads.

Many government employees have resources to enable them to work from home following the intense investment by departments during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has demonstrated that many employees are able to deliver on their key responsibilities away from the office. Forcing employees to risk their lives trying to navigate flooded and potholed roads can have dire consequences. Various rivers are full, and more rain is predicted for some areas. Employees are delayed by travelling on roads with potholes, static water, and dysfunctional traffic lights. The situation is worse in rural areas where roads are not tarred and muddy. In addition, many government buildings are dilapidated, further compromising the safety of employees. Rural provinces are worst affected with destruction of roads, schools, and homes leaving various areas inaccessible.

The implementation of remote work will also reduce the strain on emergency services and infrastructure stretched by weather conditions. Affected employees will be enabled to continue with their work without interruption, ensuring service delivery.

The PSA urges government, as a caring and progressive employer, to prioritise the safety of employees by implementing remote work in affected areas.

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