



<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA calls for municipal workers to be offered inflation-related salary increase</b>
<b>DATE</b>	13 August 2024
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), as a major union for public-sector employees, is extremely concerned about media reports regarding challenges faced by Tshwane Municipality in meeting its wage-payment obligations.

The Municipality's inability to pay employees' salaries has a direct adverse impact on the City's ability to provide essential services to residents who pay municipal rates regularly and on time. The situation is exacerbated by the Municipality's previous failure to honour the wage agreement for the 2023/24-financial year. Employees were promised a 5.4%-wage increase, which was reneged upon owing to alleged financial constraints. This breach led to a protracted strike, causing considerable damage to municipal property and a service-delivery collapse, including waste removal.

Ongoing negotiations for the 2024/25-financial year salary increase are also a matter of concern. The PSA is deeply disappointed with the South African Local Government Association's (SALGA) current offer of a 3.5%-salary increase. This offer is an insult to the employees as it is far below the current inflation rate and fails to address the severe economic pressures faced by employees.

The PSA urges the Tshwane Municipality to enhance its revenue collection mechanisms and enforce stringent financial controls to prevent a waste of taxpayer funds. The Municipality must ensure proper management of its finances to prevent future disruptions in service delivery and wage payments.

The PSA stands united with the employees in demanding a salary increase that exceeds inflation rates. The PSA appeals to SALGA to reconsider its offer and provide a more reasonable and equitable salary adjustment for the current financial year. Employees deserve fair compensation that reflects their contributions and supports their ability to cope with economic realities.

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