

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls on Minister of Presidency to refrain from making reckless statements and allow due process before implementation of voluntary retirement**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is infuriated by the irresponsible and reckless statement by the Minister in the Presidency, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, when addressing managers at the State Security Agency (SSA).

The Minister is alleged to have stated that managers who are older than 50 years need to start packing their bags, which is viewed by the PSA as threatening these employees. The managers are now stressed as they do not know if the Minister will execute her threats. These managers are yet to be consulted after statements in this regard by the Minister of Finance. Proper consultation with affected employees is expected.

Government as employer is yet to table the matter at the relevant forum and such statements are therefore problematic. It remains the PSA's position that the matter must be tabled for further engagement rather than threatening already traumatised employees. In addition, no employee must be forced to take early retirement. Such a decision should be based on consideration of personal circumstances and should be taken in the best interests of the employees, their families, and the employer.

The Minister further allegedly told these senior managers that President Cyril Ramaphosa wants to close the SSA, and she had fought to keep it open. Irrespective of the Minister's role in keeping the SSA open, it does not give her the right to behave in a rogue manner as if she owns the entity. No minister or politician will be allowed to threaten and victimise employees based on their age or any other factor. The Minister is warned to desist from threatening employees, failing which she will face the wrath of the PSA as the Union will not allow bullying of employees under its watch.

The PSA has cautioned government to be careful not to allow the obsession to manage the fiscus to paralyse the public service where the skilled employees will be pushed out of employment without proper planning. Whilst the PSA is awaiting the tabling of the matter at the relevant forum, the Union will not hesitate to intervene on behalf of its members should they be threatened and bullied. The Minister is warned to allow the due processes to unfold, including negotiation with labour, before the implementation can be considered.

END

