



MEDIA RELEASE **PSA concerned about failure to get Border Management Agency operational**

DATE 15 March 2022

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), as the Union representing the majority of employees of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA), is concerned about reports by the Minister of Home Affairs regarding delays with the implementation of the Border Management Agency (BMA).

Almost two years have passed since the enactment of the BMA and progress has been extremely slow. The project was allocated the necessary budget and resources to kickstart the process. The PSA is concerned that the BMA may end up being another failed project by government. The DHA must prevent any form of possible corrupt activities related to this project aimed at enhancing South African border control to curb illegal migration by undocumented foreign nationals, smuggling of illicit goods and drugs, and movement of stolen goods. The appointments of the BMA Commissioner and his deputy are welcomed but swift action is required to ensure the success of the project.

The country expects border guards on the ground and the patrolling of fences on a 24-hour basis. This project should ensure that law and order is upheld at South African borders to further support economic recovery. The PSA therefore urges the DHA to prioritise the project and table the operationalisation of the BMA at the bargaining chamber for engagement. The PSA will also closely monitor the transfer of employees from various government entities and the conditions of employment for border guards.

END