

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA condemns Free State Premier's selective intervention in provincial employment matters

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is astonished by the sudden interest shown by the Premier of the Free State in employment matters in the provincial government.

This newfound concern is particularly perplexing, given that the PSA has repeatedly raised similar issues with the Premier's Office, requesting intervention and engagement with unions, without even receiving an acknowledgement of the requests. This apparent selective intervention is not an isolated incident. The Free State Provincial Government continues to engage in wasteful expenditure, particularly regarding disciplinary hearings that could have been resolved more efficiently.

The PSA believes that transparency is crucial and calls for clarity on the process through which the Premier decides to intervene so that all cases of concern can be addressed equitably. Despite the Premier's lack of response, the PSA remains steadfast in seeking an audience with her as a key stakeholder in employer-employee relations. Collaboration is essential to resolving the challenges affecting provincial government employees and ensuring that their rights are upheld.

The PSA is further extremely concerned about the track record of the Head of Department (HOD) at the centre of these issues. The HOD has a history of non-compliance with labour legislation, with arbitration rulings consistently going against her department. This has resulted in costly and unnecessary legal battles, where binding arbitration awards have been reviewed despite clear legal opinions advising against such action owing to the lack of valid grounds.

The PSA urges the Free State Premier to take these concerns seriously and engage meaningfully with labour representatives to address the systemic issues in the Provincial Government. The PSA remains committed to advocating for the rights of the Union's members and holding government accountable for fair and just employment practices.

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