

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA condemns South African Reserve Bank decision to keep interest rate unchanged
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<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is perplexed by the recent decision of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) to keep the interest rate unchanged.

The pausing of the rate-cutting cycle is mind boggling as the country seems to be successful in maintaining low inflation. The PSA regards the decision as a missed opportunity given the Rand's stability and the current level of inflation. The PSA is particularly worried about the negative impact this decision will have on the South African economy and citizens, especially homeowners and potential buyers. This decision is especially troubling given the current economic uncertainties and the need for supportive monetary policies. The unchanged interest rate means that borrowing costs remain high, making it difficult for many South Africans to afford homes and manage existing mortgage payments. This decision could further stifle growth in the property sector, which is crucial for economic stability and development. The reduction of interest rates would have offered much-needed relief to workers and businesses struggling under the burden of high living costs, persistent fuel price increases, rising electricity tariffs, and high medical-aid costs.

The PSA calls on the SARB to explore measures to support economic growth to alleviate financial pressures on consumers. The SARB cannot be oblivious to the struggles of citizens and the working class. Further, government should consider the implementation of policies to address the spiralling cost-of-living to complement monetary policy interventions and ensure sustainable economic recovery. The PSA is committed to advocating for the financial well-being of public-sector employees and the broader working class and will continue engaging relevant stakeholders in pursuit of further economic relief measures.

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