

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA condemns unlawful dismissals of KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development Community Caregivers and Expanded Public Works Programme employees
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) as the majority Union in the Department of Social Development and the Public Health and Social Development Sectoral Bargaining Council in KwaZulu-Natal, is appalled by the unfair dismissal by the Department of Community Caregivers and Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) employees, by not renewing their service contracts from 1 April 2025.

The PSA has received numerous termination letters issued to these employees without prior consultation with the Union or affected employees. This reckless, unilateral decision is an attack on employees' rights and a grave injustice that threatens livelihoods and essential public services. These employees provide critical support to vulnerable communities by assisting the elderly, the sick, and those in dire social and economic conditions. Their dismissals are an assault on workers and a betrayal of the communities they serve.

The Department of Social Development, which should be at the forefront of fighting poverty and unemployment, has instead opted for a heartless, destructive approach that will deepen suffering across KwaZulu-Natal. The PSA has already addressed these terminations with the authorities, but without avail. Many of these employees are the sole breadwinners in their households, and their sudden termination will push families into extreme hardship. The province already battles high unemployment and dire socio-economic conditions, and these dismissals will further cripple struggling communities.

The PSA demands the immediate withdrawal of these termination of contract letters and calls for an urgent meeting with the Department to reverse this injustice. The Department's failure to engage in fair and transparent processes is a flagrant violation of labour rights, and the PSA will not tolerate this blatant disregard for due process. Should the Department fail to immediately reinstate these workers, the PSA will consider taking legal action and other actions against this unjust decision.

The PSA stands firm in defending the rights of employees and ensuring accountability from government institutions. The PSA urges the Department to act with urgency, fairness, and integrity before this situation escalates.

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