

MEDIA RELEASE	<b>PSA is encouraged by the Limpopo Premier's commitment to address critical areas</b>
DATE	6 August 2024
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the address by Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, which diagnosed critical issues facing Limpopo.

The PSA is encouraged by the Premier's commitment to critical areas, which align with the Union's goals of enhancing public service delivery and ensuring the well-being of all citizens in Limpopo. The promise to speedily address infrastructure challenges, including maintenance, is commendable, as is the commitment to employ artisans in the Department of Public Work, Roads, and Infrastructure. The directive for the MEC to conduct a full audit of unfinished infrastructure projects and reduce dependency on service providers is spot on, as government has historically been overcharged by service providers for shoddy work or incomplete projects. It is regrettable that the Premier did not commit to a timeline for eradicating pit latrines at schools in Limpopo.

Initiatives to address youth unemployment and poverty are encouraging as Limpopo is experiencing an unemployment of some 45%. The resuscitation of economic zones earmarked to create more than 30 000 jobs should be a firm commitment supported by action. The beneficiation of natural resources and stop exporting raw materials will assist in creating opportunities for young people, especially unemployed graduates who may need reskilling. Limpopo has reduced the number of rangers from 1 300 to 350, which goes against the Premier's desire to exploit tourism to develop the economy. The appointment of additional rangers is urgently needed.

The call on the MEC of Health to work around the clock to ensure that health facilities receive accreditation, as required for contracting with the National Health Insurance Fund, should be supported by the employment of health workers, as the Department of Health has severe staff shortages. Appointing Community Health Workers on a permanent basis, as well as more nurses, and doctors will assist in meeting NHI requirements. Many health facilities have water challenges, are dilapidated, and have no alternative energy supply or even an occupation certificate.

The ambitious plan to launch a water project every Friday seems impossible, and the PSA will monitor the attainment of such goals. It makes sense for government to procure its own water drilling equipment instead of paying exorbitant amounts to service providers.

The PSA is extremely concerned about the lack of decisive action in respect of corruption and the challenges facing public service workers. Corruption and maladministration continue to plague Limpopo, undermining public trust and hindering service delivery. The PSA calls on the Premier to take a firm stand against corruption, ensuring that those responsible are held accountable and that transparent governance practices are implemented across all departments. The PSA is disappointed by the Premier's failure to adequately address the plight of public servants as many employees are working in neglected and unsafe conditions, with staff shortages exacerbating the

situation. The PSA urges the Premier to prioritise the well-being of public-service workers by improving their working conditions, filling vacant positions, and ensuring fair treatment and adequate compensation.

The PSA looks forward to a productive partnership with the Premier and her administration. The Union is committed to working together to achieve the shared vision of a prosperous, healthy, and educated Limpopo. The PSA remains dedicated to representing the interests of public servants and ensuring that their voices are heard in the ongoing efforts to improve the province. The PSA will hold the Premier accountable to the commitments and promises made, especially in respect of the rights and interests of public servants.

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