

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **Public Service strike: PSA ballot results being processed**

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EMBARGO                                  None

ENQUIRIES                                communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA), representing more than 230 000 public servants, has concluded balloting the Union's members on strike action after wage negotiations in the Public Service deadlocked.

The ballot process is a pre-requisite in terms of the *Labour Relations Act* before industrial action can commence. The PSA followed the dispute process whilst other unions are still locked in a facilitation process with the employer. The PSA has been excluded from the facilitation process after declaring the dispute, and the current offer presented to other unions was not presented to the PSA for consideration during the conciliation process.

The PSA's balloting process closed on 28 June 2021 and the results are now being processed. In the interim, picketing rules in support of the strike action will have to be agreed on with the employer. This meeting is scheduled for Monday, 5 July 2021. Once these prerequisites have been concluded, the PSA will serve notice on the employer for strike action.

The PSA is highly cognisant of the fact that the country is on COVID-19 alert-level 4 and this will impact on the planned strike action. The PSA will, however, monitor the relaxation of the regulations that allow physical gatherings and also strategically choose a date to resume strike action that will have an immediate impact. The PSA is aware of important government events that will happen and that will require the Public Service to function optimally.

The PSA is of the opinion that collective bargaining in respect of improving the terms and conditions of public servants is under severe threat of erosion. Strike action is the only option left to make the employer understand that public servants must be respected to ensure efficient service delivery.

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