

MEDIA RELEASE: **Public Service wage dispute: PSA to approach Constitutional Court**

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EMBARGO: None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents some 240 000 public-sector employees, has instructed its legal team to pursue the recent Labour Appeal Court judgement on the Public Service wage dispute at the Constitutional Court.

The Labour Appeal Court in December 2020 ruled the Clause 3.3. of PSCBC Resolution 1/2018 was unlawful and therefore could not be implemented. The last leg of the three-year salary agreement was not implemented by the State and the Labour Appeal Court indicated that it was not fair and equitable for the State to pay the salary increases amidst the current economic climate.

The PSA is not satisfied with the judgement as it has severe repercussions for the future of collective bargaining in the country. The State must be held accountable for signing an agreement that it had no intention of implementing. The rising costs of food, fuel, transport, medical aid and other living expenses coupled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have taken a toll on public servants who have been at the forefront of this pandemic, rendering delivering critical services. Merely paying lip service and complimenting front-line workers is simply not enough to financially assist public servants who were due to receive salary increases in April 2020.

The PSA is set to file papers at the Constitutional Court on 29 January 2021. The Union has, in the meantime, also demanded that Public Service salary negotiations for the 2021/22-financial year should commence immediately at the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council.

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