MEDIA RELEASE	**Women's Day: PSA calls for more investment in women**
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

On Women's Day, the Public Servants Association (PSA) calls for intensified investment in the empowerment of South African women to strengthen their role as societal pillars.

Despite considerable progress made to empower women, South Africa still faces substantial challenges. Women live in an unequal world, which deprives them of economic opportunities, especially in underdeveloped regions. The day thus not only commemorates the courageous women who marched to the Union Buildings in 1956 but also the ongoing journey towards equality and empowerment for all women in South Africa.

Inequalities remain starkly evident. In the corporate sector, for example, only 35% of chief executive officers of companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange are women. Globally, women make up at least half of the public service, yet they only hold 20% of leadership positions. This disparity highlights the systemic barriers that women continue to face in reaching leadership positions and maximising their potential.

Investing in women empowerment is a moral imperative and a strategic necessity for the advancement of the country. Empowered women will enhance service delivery in the public sector where they have already made remarkable strides, bringing about positive changes through dedication, empathy, and innovation. Women's contributions have secured policies that promote inclusivity and social justice. They were further instrumental in enhancing healthcare, education, and more responsive local governments.

Women in public-service roles have proven that they are instrumental in driving progress and fostering a more equitable society. To fully realise the potential of women in improving service delivery, South Africa must invest in their education, mentorship, and create an enabling environment that supports their growth and advancement to bridge gaps.

On Women's Day 2024, the PSA urges all stakeholders, including the new National Government of Unity, to commit to building a South Africa where every woman has the opportunity to succeed and achieve her full potential in the interest of the country and its future.

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