

## Public Service Day 2021

On Public Service Day, the PSA pays tribute to all public servants who play a vital role in sustaining service delivery during most pressing of times.

Public Service Day is an event entrenched in the African Union calendar and originates from the conference of African Ministers for Public or Civil Service held in Morocco in 1994. It was agreed at this conference that 23 June should be celebrated annually as Africa Public Service Day to recognise the value and virtue of service to the community.

This year's Africa Public Service Day is commemorated under the theme, "The role of Public Administration in Building and Sustaining peaceful co-existence among communities." South African public servants are, however, increasingly working under sub-standard conditions. They are on the receiving end of public anger as Government fails to capacitate them to render efficient services. Fraud and corruption have not only disabled service delivery but have also robbed public servants of salary increases for two consecutive years. These public servants face additional challenges in various workplaces. At the Department of Correctional Services, for example, the non-filling of posts and the resulting staff shortage expose Correctional officers to violent attacks by inmates. Police and traffic officers are regularly overpowered and even killed by criminals. Teachers and health workers are over-worked and bending under the strain. Other public servants face verbal abuse and attacks from members of the public whilst trying to deliver services under trying circumstances.

Despite this, public servants remain on duty, serve at the frontline against the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain service delivery. On Public Service Day, the PSA pays tribute to South Africa's public servants for their dedication, perseverance and selfless services - the country remains deeply indebted for the services rendered. The PSA will steadfastly continue protecting and promoting public servants' well-deserved rights and interests.

GENERAL MANAGER