



**the dpsa**

Department:  
Public Service and Administration  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X916, PRETORIA, 0001 Tel: (012) 336 1000, Fax: (012) 326 7802  
Private Bag X9148, CAPE TOWN, 8000 Tel: (021) 467 5120, Fax:(021) 467 5484

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **PSA public misinformation campaign regarding the role of the Minister of Finance in the current round of wage Negotiations**

The DPSA has noted with dismay the irresponsible and disingenuous utterances by the Assistant General Manager of the PSA, Mr Reuben Maleka, who seems obsessed with misleading the Public on the roles of both the Minister of Finance and the Acting Minister for the Public Service and Administration (MPSA). The PSA has embarked on a misinformation campaign regarding the role of the Minister of Finance in the current round of wage Negotiations.

The Acting Deputy Director-General of the Branch Negotiations, Labour Relations and Remuneration Management at the Department of Public Service and Administration, Mr Dumisani Hlophe said in setting the record straight, that the DPSA would like to clarify to public servants and the members of the public in general on the role of the two Ministers in the negotiations. Contrary to what the PSA says, the Minister is a member of the Committee of Ministers that serves as a mandating structure for the State as Employer, which is convened by the Minister for the Public Service and Administration (MPSA). The Mandating Committee also includes the Ministers of Basic Education; Police; Health; Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries amongst others.

Without any fear or contradiction, the DPSA would like to indicate that never has the Minister of Finance set his foot at the Bargaining Chambers to take charge of the negotiations as Mr Maleka maliciously claims. It only makes sense that the Minister of Finance as the bearer of the Government purse only takes interest in the negotiations as they will ultimately have a bearing on the Government fiscus. It is unfortunate that Mr. Maleka, representing PSA, a party to the Bargaining Council, has decided to be opportunistic, disingenuous and deliberately mislead the public on the role of the Minister of Finance in the current negotiations. Our observation is that it has become a norm for the PSA to leave legitimate platforms to engage and peddle lies in the media about the negotiations. The Public must also be reminded that it is the PSA which undermined collective bargaining and abandoned engagements in council and ran to the Courts in 2020. This litigation deprived parties of an opportunity to develop mutually acceptable equitable remedy with regard to the implementation of the last leg of PSCBC Resolution 1 of 2018. This action resulted in strained relations between organized labour and the state, as the courts resolved on it before discussions could be completed amongst social partners.

The Minister of Finance has been the most accessible and engaged Finance Minister in a long time, which is something that organized labour has been calling for. We further wish to remind members of the public that the Minister of Finance has from day one of his appointment supported the work aimed at finding sustainable lasting solutions on issues related to salaries of public servants as well as ensuring labour peace in the public service. This has amongst others been witnessed by his participation at the Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC) Summit held in March 2022 amongst others.

Again in 2022, during this current round of negotiations, it is the very same PSA led by Mr Reuben Maleka that has abandoned the negotiations and declared a dispute pre-maturely while the rest of Organised Labour is still in negotiations at the PSCBC.

**For more information contact: Director Communications: Moses Mushi (Mr) on 0829726596/0123361358 or email at [mosesm@dpsa.gov.za](mailto:mosesm@dpsa.gov.za).**

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