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## Media Statement

### For Immediate Release

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## **Celebrating 30 Years of Democracy: The 2024 Africa Public Service Day - "Professionalising the Public Service to Build Capacity of the State through Lifelong Education and Training"**

The 2024 Africa Public Service Day (APSD) is commemorated across the continent on June 23, 2024, under the national theme "*Professionalizing the Public Service to Build Capacity of the State through Lifelong Education and Training.*" This annual event provides an important platform to recognize the crucial role of the public service in driving development and delivering quality services to citizens as South Africa celebrates 30 years of democracy.

The 2024 APSD theme aligns with the African Union's focus on putting transformation opportunities in education at the centre stage under the overarching theme "Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality and Relevant Learning in Africa." It underscores the importance of professionalising the public service through lifelong education and training to build the capacity of the state to better serve the needs of citizens.

"As we commemorate 30 years of democracy in South Africa, the Africa Public Service Day is a moment to appreciate the dedication and tireless efforts of our public servants who work to improve the lives of citizens every day," said the Minister for the Public Service and Administration, Ms Noxolo Kiviet. "South Africa is proud to join the rest of the continent in commemorating this important day and recommitting ourselves to strengthen public administration and service delivery for the benefit of all our people."

Over the past three decades, the public service has been instrumental in consolidating and safeguarding the democratic gains achieved in South Africa. Through their unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability and upholding the rule of law, public servants have played a pivotal role in strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring responsive, inclusive governance for all citizens.

The country is undergoing important transitional processes, recently emerging from elections. The mandate given to the administration will be a key focus of the

next Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) for 2024-2029, as the country looks to build on the progress made over the past three decades of democracy.

"As we work towards realising the aspirations of Agenda 2063 - 'The Africa We Want' - the Africa Public Service Day reminds us of the critical role of capable, inclusive and accountable public institutions in driving sustainable development," added Minister Kiviet. "Let us use this occasion to rededicate ourselves to building a public service that is truly transformative and responsive to the needs of all our citizens, building on the progress we have made over the past 30 years of democracy."

Although the 2024 APSD activities have been deferred to take place in September 2024 during the Integrated Public Service Month, all public servants and members of the public are encouraged to continue engaging in innovative ways of enhancing access to quality education and training, ultimately contributing to more responsive and effective governance that upholds the democratic values of our country.

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