



NPSWU CONDEMNS 3% BUDGET INCREASE AS A BLOW TO WORKERS AND THE WORKING CLASS

MEDIA STATEMENT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The National Public Service Workers Union (NPSWU) notes the 2025 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) delivered by Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, and is concerned that the announced 3% wage increase does not match the real cost of living faced by public servants and working families.

NPSWU National Treasurer, Mr. K.G. Malekane, said the increase is too low to help workers who are already under pressure from rising food, transport, and healthcare costs.

"We are not in support of this 3% increase. It does not respond to the real cost of living challenges. Workers are finding it harder to cope while government continues to focus mainly on fiscal targets," said Malekane.

He explained that although Treasury highlights progress in reducing debt and tightening spending, many workers continue to receive below-inflation salary adjustments, which weakens their financial stability.

"This budget puts more strain on the middle class and lower-income workers, who already carry much of the economic pressure in our country. We are asking government to consider the daily realities of the people who deliver essential public services," Malekane added.

NPSWU believes the MTBPS does not offer strong enough support for job creation, income growth, or workplace improvements in key public sectors such as health, education, and local government. Mr. Malekane emphasised that NPSWU will continue to work through collective bargaining, advocacy, and worker education to ensure that government decisions protect the rights and livelihoods of public servants.

"For NPSWU, this is about fairness and dignity. We will continue to engage constructively and push for a wage environment that recognises the role of workers and supports stable public services," concluded Malekane.

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