



20 March 2020

Minister Senzo Mchunu
Minister of Public Service and Administration
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Urgent action required to protect public servants from Nehawu

Dear Minister Mchunu,

I sent you a letter yesterday alerting you to the threats by Nehawu and other labour unions to proceed with a protest march, involving 20 000 public servants, on 30 March 2020.

Media reports today, as well as a statement issued by Nehawu, have confirmed that they intend to proceed with the mass protest in direct and deliberate violation of the emergency measures currently in place to fight against the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The planned march has the potential to expose thousands of public servants, as well as members of the broader public, to the deadly novel coronavirus. Even one infection resulting from the planned march can spread like wildfire.

In the interest of public safety, I hereby demand to know what measures your department is taking to avert this looming disaster. What concrete steps are in place to prevent Nehawu from undertaking this protest action, thereby defying government's emergency measures and potentially exposing thousands of public servants and the broader South African public to the coronavirus?

I request that you urgently respond to this letter, as panic is starting to set in amongst concerned workers who will be forced to attend this march, as well as amongst members of the public who fear being exposed to the coronavirus due to Nehawu's irresponsible actions.

I look forward to your urgent response on the measures you are taking to protect public servants and the broader public from Nehawu.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L Schreiber'.

Dr Leon Schreiber MP
DA Shadow Minister of Public Service and Administration