

## **Public servants body concerned with Mkhwebane's 'hypocritical' probe**

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Public servants body concerned with Mkhwebane's 'hypocritical' probe By Staff Writer - Jul 27, 2019  
2 views The Public Servants Association (PSA) has expressed their worries about the investigation by the Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane into SARS human resources processes. The union also made mention of the appointment of new SARS Commissioner Edward Kieswetter, while "her own office should be investigated for the fitness to hold office of its CEO Vussy Mahlangu and his clearance status". Describing the Public Protector's conduct as "hypocritical and a ploy to derail efforts" by SARS to restore its credibility and regain the confidence of taxpayers' in carrying out its collection of revenue mandate. "The PSA has full confidence in the current SARS management and discourages any form of harassment and abuse of power against SARS by the office of the public protector or any other institution for ulterior motives", the PSA said in a statement. The union went on to add that they were also concerned that its shop stewards at the office of the public protector were being victimized and even suspended for performing their duties as union representatives. ALSO READ: Public Protector to probe appointment of SARS boss Adding that, " They regard these actions a means to prevent the union from speaking out against ongoing improprieties in the workplace, including unlawful surveillance of phone calls, laptops being taken without any repercussions or reasons for such acts". PSA had also indicated that it would resist any form of "union bashing" brought on by the office of the public protector. The union awaits the outcome of the investigation that was requested from State Security Minister, Ayanda Dlodlo on June 10 regarding the State Security Agency being "misused" by the office of the public protector. In addition to the above, PSA were opposing the amendment of policies by the office of the public protector without consultation, thus undermining the bargaining forum processes. Demanding that all policies amended without consultation be withdrawn and be tabled at the forum to afford employees the chance to provide input. However, Mkhwebane's office, refused to withdraw the amendments