

Insourcing Bill to end outsourcing essential government services

MAHIKENG MAIL - MAHIKENG: The Public Servants Association (PSA) has welcomed and supported the Insourcing Bill, a Private Member's Bill currently before Parliament, which seeks to end outsourcing of essential government services and restore the capacity, integrity, and accountability of the state.

The Bill compels organs of state to directly employ workers who provide regularly required services such as security, cleaning, gardening, maintenance, catering, IT, administration, and certain health related functions, rather than outsourcing them to private contractors.

According to the Bill, where direct employment is not feasible, state entities would have to obtain formal exemptions based on clearly defined criteria. In their media statement released on Tuesday, the PSA said the workers' union supported this approach as outsourcing has historically undermined labour rights and led to deteriorating conditions for thousands of workers across the public sector.

Tender driven outsourcing has become a breeding ground for corruption, inflated pricing, and non-delivery of services, weakening the state's ability to fulfil its constitutional mandate.

Insourcing is aligned with long standing resolutions of governing parties

to rebuild the state's internal capacity and eliminate exploitative contracting practices. Subsequently, the Bill addresses administrative and service-delivery failures stemming from excessive outsourcing and weak procurement oversight.

South Africa's annual public procurement budget of R1 trillion continues to attract criminal and corrupt elements, exploiting loopholes in supply chain processes, especially in municipalities and state owned enterprises. This has contributed significantly to state capture, service delivery failures, and the hollowing out of public institutions.

The Bill presents a clear opportunity to save scarce public resources currently lost to inflated tenders and repeated contracting failures, improve service delivery, particularly in health, safety, and other vital public sectors affected by under capacity and corruption. It will end the exploitation of outsourced workers who are denied stable employment, benefits, and career development opportunities. Trust in the

public service will be rebuilt by ensuring that essential services are delivered by accountable, properly employed personnel.

The Insourcing Bill marks a turning point for South Africa's public administration. It

provides a concrete, legislative mechanism to reverse decades of corrosive outsourcing practices, restore dignity to workers, and ensure that the state can effectively serve the people.

[Full Page Image](#)