

MEDIA RELEASE	Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities: PSA calls for accountability regarding alleged nepotism and corruption
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) noted with extreme concern allegations of nepotism, political favouritism, and irregular appointments at the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD), which are currently being investigated by the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Such allegations, if substantiated, would represent a serious violation of the principles of fairness, transparency, merit, and accountability that underpin the South African public service. Every public servant and job applicant has the right to fair and reasonable treatment during the recruitment and selection process. The PSA welcomes the PSC's decision to investigate the allegations and calls for a thorough, impartial, and transparent investigation. The investigation must establish facts, identify wrongdoing, and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

The PSA opposes any form of nepotism, political interference, favouritism or corruption in recruitment and selection processes. Public-service appointments must be based on merit, qualifications, competence, and the principles of employment equity as prescribed by the *Employment Equity Act*. Employment equity should not be manipulated to justify irregular appointments or advance personal or political interests. The PSA calls on the Department to uphold the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and fairness in recruitment and selection processes, ensuring full compliance with the applicable policy and relevant legislation. Selection committees must be empowered to carry out their responsibilities independently, objectively, and without political interference, intimidation, or undue influence. Employees who report suspected irregularities or decline to participate in unlawful recruitment practices must be protected against retaliation and victimisation in accordance with the *Protected Disclosures Act*.

The allegations, if proven, risk further undermining public trust in government institutions and damaging the morale of public servants who compete fairly and lawfully for employment and promotion opportunities. Public-service recruitment must be beyond reproach. If these allegations are proven, decisive action must follow to protect public confidence, the integrity of the Department, and the rights of employees and applicants who expect fair treatment. It is essential that the PSC concludes its investigation expeditiously and findings are made public in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements to promote transparency, accountability, and public confidence.



The PSA will continue to advocate for ethical leadership, clean governance, and a professional public service. The PSA expects decisive action against any person found guilty of misconduct, whilst respecting the rights of all persons involved to due process and procedural fairness during the investigation. Recruitment processes must remain transparent, credible, and free from corruption to ensure that the best-qualified candidates are appointed to serve citizens.

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