

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	Foreign academic appointments: PSA welcomes Parliamentary call for transparency and calls for extension to other sectors
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<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decisive stance taken by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training, together with the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, in directing South African universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to submit comprehensive lists of all foreign academics employed at such institutions.

This directive seeks to tighten compliance with immigration and labour legislation and ensure that foreign appointments genuinely address verified skills shortages rather than bypassing existing legal frameworks. The PSA noted Parliament's concern that some institutions may have used internationalisation as justification to circumvent immigration laws, resulting in irregularities and unreliable data on the employment of foreign nationals, including in senior administrative posts not aligned with the Critical Skills List.

The PSA supports this renewed accountability drive, especially in light of ongoing socio-economic pressures and high unemployment rates. Ensuring that vacancies in the public education sector prioritise qualified South Africans is essential to strengthen national employment opportunities, stabilise public institutions, and maintain public trust in recruitment processes. The PSA, however, emphasises that these compliance and transparency measures must not be limited solely to universities and TVET colleges. The PSA calls on Parliament to extend similar oversight requirements to other sectors, including public administration, government departments, public-health institutions, state-owned enterprises, municipalities, provincial administrations and the retail industry. Extending accountability beyond the higher education sector will ensure uniform compliance with immigration and labour laws, prevent exploitation of regulatory gaps, and safeguard employment prospects of capable South African professionals.

The PSA values the contribution of foreign nationals who bring scarce skills critical to the Country's development. Thus must, however, occur within a regulated, transparent framework that demonstrates clear skills shortages, prevents displacement of local talent, and upholds the integrity of recruitment processes, as already highlighted by Parliament regarding the post-school education sector.

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