

**MEDIA RELEASE: KZN Social Development: PSA calls for immediate action on R30 million irregular expenditure**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) as the Union representing the majority of employees of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development, welcomes the forensic investigation report presented by KZN Premier, Sihle Zikalala, into the Department's alleged irregular procurement of COVID-19 personal protective equipment and blankets.

The purpose of the investigation was to establish if the procurement process was above board and in line with processes, whether there was collusion between officials and service providers in the awarding contracts, and whether there was value for money on items procured. The forensic investigation pointed out that had the process been properly followed, the Department would have saved more than R2,2 million of taxpayers' money.

On 4 June 2013, the Manase Report was made available to the public and contained allegations of fraud in the Department's supply chain management process in awarding contracts and payments. To date, measures contained in the report have not been implemented. This same oversight should not be allowed in respect of the current report if the province is committed to rooting out corruption in the public sector

The severe shortage of personal protective equipment in the Department of Social Development is a serious challenge and exposes frontline workers. The PSA condemns the highlighted irregularities and calls on the authorities to act swiftly to bring the perpetrators to book. The PSA will also monitor the implementation of the forensic investigation report closely to ensure justice is served.

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