

MEDIA RELEASE **Laptop procurement scandal: PSA applauds suspension of Mpumalanga Education HOD**

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes and commends the decision by Mpumalanga Premier to suspend the Head of the Mpumalanga Department of Education following a forensic investigation that uncovered serious procurement irregularities.

According to the findings released by the Premier, the Department spent R2 million on just 22 laptops, an astonishing R91 482.50 per device. The PSA is alarmed by these findings, which point to blatant financial mismanagement and a disregard for the legal and regulatory frameworks governing public procurement.

The suspension of the Head of Department, signed by the Premier on 27 May 2025, is viewed by the PSA as a vital step toward restoring transparency and accountability in public administration. The PSA is, however, concerned about the reported involvement of other senior officials in the scandal. The PSA calls for urgent disciplinary measures and, where appropriate, criminal charges against all persons implicated in this gross misconduct. The misuse of public funds, particularly in a critical sector such as education, is unacceptable and must be addressed with the seriousness it deserves.

The PSA is committed to promoting good governance and integrity in the public sector and urges government departments to tighten internal controls and ensure strict compliance with procurement regulations to prevent violations.

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