

MEDIA RELEASE **Limpopo Department of Health looting: PSA underlines statement**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) underlines its statement of looting at the Limpopo Department of Health in the wake of a Limpopo liquor trader, appearing on the list of service providers and to whom a contract of R1,2 million was allegedly awarded, came forward to dispute this.

The trader denied ever submitting quotations for supplying personal protective equipment (PPE) and was shocked to see his company's name on the list. It was reported that the supply chain management frustrated some service providers out of their contracts and changed banking details to create opportunity for friends and relatives. Subsequently, service providers were handpicked, including spouses and children of provincial political leaders.

The Auditor General's preliminary report, issued on 2 September 2020, confirmed that most PPE contracts were marred by possible fraud, irregularities, and inflated prices. The report further pointed out that, amongst others, inflated payments, payments for undelivered PPE and to non-tax compliant companies, and conflict of interest, were picked up. Some service providers even delivered PPE without orders being placed. He further pointed that provincial departments of health have paid up to five times more than they should have for PPE to fight the spread of the coronavirus as they did not comply with National Treasury recommended prices.

The PSA is aware that none of the implicated officials will be suspended to allow for unhindered investigation owing to the stance of the provincial leadership. The PSA, however, still believes in the competency of the AG and the Special Investigating Unit to ensure that culprits are brought to book. The PSA also calls on those whose names have been used to defraud government, to open criminal cases with the SA Police Service to ensure that the looters are prosecuted.

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