

MEDIA RELEASE **Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure: PSA demands full investigation into alleged irregularities**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has learnt with concern about alleged tender irregularities, irregular expenditure, and maladministration at the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure.

Allegations include the awarding of a R179-million contract to a company despite the directors' non-compliance with tax requirements. This was revealed at a recent appearance before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The Department was further scolded for appointing the former Head of Department who was allegedly entangled in the irregularity in awarding of tenders pertaining to the delivery of textbooks. It is concerning that the former Head of Department was also appointed to the position of Chief Financial Officer of the Department, which is already struggling with proper governance.

The Department also recently acknowledged that there is no updated and proper record of buildings belonging to it and hinted at the cost of maintaining many neglected buildings. This carelessness has cost the people of Limpopo millions as the Department tasked with the critical role of infrastructure maintenance and development, is failing dismally. The *Public Finance Management Act* and Supply Chain Management Regulations are clear on the expectations of those tasked with the responsibility of managing public resources. It is disheartening to note that the Department continues to disregard the legislative framework regulating procurement processes and no consequence management is implemented. It is not the first time that the Department has been accused of maladministration and irregularities. Yet, no one is held accountable, and the culture of non-compliance is continuing without any recourse. The irregular and wrong appointments are also not assisting as service delivery and compliance can only be advanced through the appointment of skilled, experienced workers with a high level of integrity.

The PSA constantly emphasizes the importance of ensuring transparency, integrity, and accountability in public institutions, particularly in financial matters. These calls are ignored as corruption and maladministration are rife in many departments. Deviation from principles erodes public trust and undermines the efficient functioning of the Department.

The PSA calls on the MEC to act swiftly against any wrongdoing to protect the public interest and restore confidence in the Department. The MEC must ensure that procurement policies and procedures are implemented without fear or favour to ensure that those who disregard these are brought to book. The Public Service attributes the glaring failure to fill vacancies to budgetary constraints whilst millions are wasted on irregular tenders. The MEC must stamp out this rot if the Department is to achieve its legislative mandate of infrastructure development.

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