

MEDIA RELEASE	Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison R19.5 million wasted and trainees abandoned: PSA demands urgent interventions
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) denounces in the strongest terms the reckless actions of the Northern Cape Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, which has abandoned 32 Traffic trainees after squandering R19.5 million of public funds.

These young people were recruited with promises of employment, yet they remain unemployed, carrying the weight of debt, humiliation, and despair. This betrayal has torn families apart, forced parents into crippling loans, and led to the tragic suicide of one trainee. The PSA denounces this gross mismanagement of taxpayers' money, where millions were poured into a programme that has produced no meaningful results.

The PSA further denounces the exploitation of vulnerable youth, who were unfairly forced to fund remedial training themselves despite initial commitments from the Department. The PSA denounces the unfair and discriminatory practice of employing 23 recruits from Hantam whilst excluding others, creating divisions amongst those who endured the same training. The PSA further denounces the deliberate withholding of certificates, a cruel act designed to block these young people from pursuing opportunities elsewhere.

The PSA demands urgent answers and immediate corrective action. The Premier of the Northern Cape and the MEC for Transport, Safety and Liaison must intervene without delay. They must ensure the appointment of all 32 qualified trainees, the release of certificates, and a full forensic investigation into this scandal. Those responsible for this betrayal of the Province's youth must be held accountable.

The PSA is escalating this matter to the Public Protector and the Auditor-General. This is not a simple administrative failure but a calculated abuse of public funds and a direct attack on the future of young people in the Northern Cape. The PSA denounces this injustice and will not relent until justice is delivered, the trainees are employed, and accountability is enforced.

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