

MEDIA RELEASE	NPA and SIU: PSA warns against budget cuts
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), as the majority Union at the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), is warning Government against planned budget cuts at the NPA and the Special Investigating Unit (SIU).

According to reports, budget cuts of R422-million for the NPA and R41-million for the SIU for the 2021/22-financial year are on the cards. The PSA is concerned that the budget cuts for these entities will render them ineffective and jeopardise the few gains that have been achieved so far. The budget cuts will have a laming effect on these institutions as they cannot strengthen the staff establishment, which is already lacking capacity. There is an urgent need to employ more staff at these institutions, but budget cuts will make this impossible.

In the 2020/21 debate, the Portfolio Committee assured the NPA that it would receive the necessary funds to render an effective service, however, it seems this commitment has now changed. There is a high volume of cases these institutions must deal with, including the Zondo Commission, gender-based violence cases and sexual offences under which the country is bending. It will be near impossible to deliver and meet targets on a reduced budget.

The PSA applauds the recent initiatives by the NPA to prosecute individuals on corruption-related matters, whilst noticing that such initiatives were not prevalent under previous regime. The mooted budget cuts will not do justice to these institutions and are in stark contrast to Government's statements on its commitment to combat corruption.

The PSA calls on Government to provide more capacity and funding to continue with actions to combat corruption and not sacrifice the gains already made. Such actions are urgently required to restore the country's image as being intolerant of corruption and thus restoring much-needed investor confidence in the struggling economy.

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