

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA: NPA must be capacitated to win battle against corruption**

**DATE**                                      8 October 2020

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), the majority union representing employees at the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), warns the State against budget cuts at the NPA in the face of soaring crime and corruption statistics.

The Director of the NPA, Adv Shamila Batohi, informed the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services on Wednesday that the suggested budget cuts for the NPA will render the entity ineffective and reverse the gains that have been achieved so far.

The PSA applauds recent NPA initiatives to prosecute individuals on corruption-related matters and has noticed that such initiatives were not prevalent under the previous regime. The PSA has also noted that the NPA is making every effort to restore the public's confidence and the credibility of the institution.

The mooted budget cuts will not do justice to the NPA and will not support government's statements related to the commitment of combatting corruption. Government should make every effort to support the NPA to be effective and efficient in rooting out corruption. This should also entail sourcing expertise from the private sector to assist the NPA. The proposed cuts contradict government's statements on fighting corruption and will be viewed by all stakeholders as government lacking commitment to eliminate crime and corruption.

It has been reported that South Africa is one of the most corrupt countries in the world and it is high time that this tag be shed. The PSA calls on government to rather provide more capacity and funding to continue with actions to combat corruption and not sacrifice the gains already made. The image and credibility of the NPA is in urgent need of being restored as is the need to offer tangible evidence of government's commitment to restore law and order in the country.

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