MEDIA RELEASE **PSA condemns overreliance on consultants by some Limpopo Municipalities**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has expressed shock about the fact that three municipalities in Limpopo, namely, Vhembe, Mopani and Collins Chabane, have spent R56 million amongst them on consultants, despite the Auditor-General condemning this type of wasteful expenditure.

A failure to ensure adequate skills transfers, resulted in the perpetual reliance on consultants. The Auditor-General's report on the province reflects that management continued to pay consultants for the preparation of financial statements.

The PSA calls upon the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to institute a skills audit to assess the skills gaps to ensure proper intervention. The Union pointed out that an overreliance on consultants points to inefficiency in recruitment processes, wherein people without the required competence are appointed, hence the failure to execute their responsibilities without the assistance of consultants.

The Auditor-General also found that a staggering R159 million was spent on consultants over the past two years, resulting in failure to commence with funded projects, as the money for service delivery was diverted to pay consultants. Limpopo residents deserve better and failure to curb this habit of haphazardly engaging consultants will further degrade the already-poor service delivery by the municipalities. The Auditor-General warned municipalities in the past regarding overreliance on consultants, but the practice is continuing.

The PSA previously pointed out the consequence of "wrong appointments", wherein people with no requisite skills are employed, resulting in failure to execute their responsibilities and service delivery being crippled. People in Limpopo are still without water, electricity, and tar roads in most places, whist astronomical amounts were squandered on consultants.

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