

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA questions Limpopo's spending on salaries

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is questioning the MEC for Treasury statement that Limpopo is the province with the highest percentage of budget being spent on the compensation of employees against the background of a high number of vacancies in most departments and many disputes relating to overtime payment for employees.

The PSA also questioned where these employees are to be found who are costing Limpopo so much and indicated that the situation warrants investigation to determine whether this is a case of "ghost" employees, employees on sick leave or on suspension who are still receiving salaries.

The PSA pointed out that it must be noted that most departments spend money on consultants as incompetent managers cannot execute their responsibilities. The PSA views the claimed high employees cost as a symptom of deeper problems such as corruption and jobs for pals that created bloated management structures and self-created posts that are not on the approved structures. The PSA has on numerous occasions questioned why departments continue employing people even though they did not have approved organograms.

The PSA expressed shock at the fact the MEC blew his trumpet regarding his "success" in the achievement of maintaining the cost of employees below 70% and 69% in the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19 respectively. The so-called success is misleading and does not present a clear picture of government's efficiency and the ability to provide services to the people of Limpopo. This hollow success disregards understaffed facilities and poor service delivery and the daily strains faced by employees.

The PSA warned the MEC that the continued stance to reduce the percentage spent on cost of employees should not be at the expense of service delivery and employees who are suffering in the workplace. The PSA maintains that the Department needs to reduce the high vacancy rate to ensure proper services to the people of Limpopo and alleviate the burden on employees owing to the high vacancy rate.

END

