

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA: Greatest heist of the century is in Eskom**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned about reports that taxpayers' money and public servants' pension monies used as bail outs went down the drain of corruption and mismanagement without any consequences to those in power at Eskom and politically.

A report by Jackie Cameron of CRO Advisors indicating that current management accounts, internal costing and qualified financial statements are not reliable is terrifying. Such misrepresentation and lack of proper disclosure beg the question why Minister Pravin Gordhan is quiet about the status of such an important asset of the nation?

The PSA calls upon the Minister to take the nation into confidence and fully explain the financial status of Eskom and what it means to the country. If VBS was the greatest heist, Eskom seems to be the mother of all heists and its time the nation receives detailed information about the sustainability of Eskom and its capacity to provide electricity to restore some confidence and a measure of hope for the future.

Eskom is critical to the South African economy as well as socio-political stability and job creation. The ongoing load shedding that its already on stage four is another indication that Eskom's challenges are huge and very serious with a possible reality that Eskom may indeed have progressed towards insolvency status and urgently requires a different approach.

The PSA agrees with the ICRO report that an independent forensic audit to assess the scale and depth of past and present looting is needed as Eskom is the heart of the economy. The PSA urges the Minister to change his "nothing-to-do approach" and appoint an independent forensic audit company that will lay a foundation for the new CEO to plug in the hole of corruption and fraud that drains Eskom monies before seeking any form of intervention or financial assistance. The first and most urgent solution to Eskom's problems is to stop the looting and recover monies lost through fraud.

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