

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Misappropriation of funds at Northern Cape Sports, Arts and Culture: PSA demands urgent action**

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The PSA (Public Servants Association) is appalled by recent reports of misappropriation of funds at the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture in the Northern Cape and demands that senior government officials must take responsibility for funds misappropriated under their watch.

In the light of a report with findings by the Public Protector, allegations of improper conduct, maladministration and misappropriation of funds, the PSA is of the view that the Head of Department (HOD) should resign. The report by the Public Protector (Report 92 of 2019) regarding the Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and Northern Cape Arts and Culture Council is disturbing. In a province with a 29% unemployment rate, and a Department where employees were not paid their EPDMS for 2017/18 and 2018/19, the alleged conduct of the HOD can only be addressed by consequence management.

The PSA finds it hard to understand why the Member of Executive Council has not yet taken the remedial actions proposed by the Public Protector. As a social partner to government, the PSA has continuously been advocating good governance in all state entities. Junior officials face suspensions and disciplinary action for inappropriate behaviour or actions and the same should be strictly applied to top officials.

The PSA calls for urgent action in response to reports of this nature. Firm action should be taken against the HOD and failure to do so will force the PSA to apply the necessary available remedies in demand of appropriate action taken against all parties involved in this financial abuse.

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