

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA opposed to misuse of public funds by KZN Government

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is shocked about the reports that the KwaZulu-Natal government intends to spend R100 million to investigate the municipalities failure to provide clean water to the communities.

This is according to a statement released by the Provincial Finance Committee Chairperson, Mr Siphon Nkosi, who was part of the Provincial Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Portfolio Committee who visited the draught-stricken areas of uMkhanyakude District in the northern part of KwaZulu-Natal. We learned of this apparent lack of sound judgement.

The PSA supports the provision of clean water and sanitation to citizens in line with their constitutional and basic human rights to access to clean water and dignity. However, the PSA believes that the expenditure for the proposed investigation is outrageous especially given the current economic situation.

The PSA has raised concerns for years over millions of rands used for outsourcing consultants to do work that is supposed to be done by government officials already on state payroll. The rationale behind spending millions of hard-earned taxpayers' money to investigate an alleged clear lack of capacity and incompetence by municipalities is rather shocking and insensitive to the current economic challenges and other key service delivery matters facing the province.

The same amount can be used to renovate state buildings that are in appalling conditions and do not comply with health and safety acts to provide a safer working environment for workers. It can also be used to capacitate workers to improve service delivery. The government is aware that most municipalities use water tankers on tender basis to supply water to communities at high cost instead of building proper water supply infrastructure that is sustainable and cost effective. This criminal practice has left communities with no water and municipalities with poor water infrastructure.

We call upon the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala to reduce the use of consultants by government on matters that can be attended to by Exco and Manco who are paid millions to deal with such.

END

