

MEDIA RELEASE PSA alarmed by escalating municipal irregular expenditure of R268 billion

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) noted with extreme concern National Treasury’s findings that municipal irregular expenditure has surged to R268 billion, pointing to deepening governance failures across local government.

This alarming trend reflects systemic weaknesses in financial management, accountability, and oversight. The continued disregard for compliance with procurement laws and public finance regulations undermines service delivery and erodes public trust in municipalities. Ultimately, citizens suffer the consequences of failing infrastructure, inadequate basic services, and diminished socio-economic opportunities. The PSA reiterates that many public servants operate under extremely challenging conditions, including political interference, capacity constraints, and a lack of adequate support. Whilst accountability is critical, blame cannot be unfairly shifted onto officials alone when systemic governance failures persist and citizens suffer from a lack of water and basic services owing to financial irregularities.

The PSA calls for urgent, decisive action, including strengthening consequence management for those responsible for financial misconduct. The capacity and protection of municipal officials should be enhanced to allow them to perform their duties without undue interference.

Local government administration must be professionalised through merit-based appointments and improving oversight mechanisms at provincial and national level.

The PSA urges government to reform municipalities to restore integrity in public financial management. South Africa cannot afford continued financial mismanagement at local government level. Immediate, coordinated interventions are essential to safeguard public resources and ensure effective service delivery.

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