

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for accountability and corrective action following Presidency's R1.7 million procurement finding
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing the majority of employees in the Presidency, noted with concern the Auditor-General's finding that some R1.7 million in groceries was procured without following the required competitive tender process, resulting in the Presidency losing its clean-audit status.

The PSA regards this a serious matter as the Presidency must lead by example in financial management, procurement compliance, transparency, and accountability. Institutional governance and management failures must, however, not be attributed to hardworking public servants who perform their duties professionally. Employees must not be scapegoated for failures involving systems, procurement controls, or decisions beyond their authority. Procurement must be fair, equitable, transparent, competitive, and cost-effective, as required by section 217 of the *Constitution*.

The PSA therefore calls on the Presidency to clarify the circumstances that led to the said procurement, including who authorised and approved the expenditure and whether the state suffered financial prejudice. The internal controls that failed and the reasons for this must be identified. The Presidency must further indicate whether disciplinary or other consequence-management processes have been initiated and what corrective measures will prevent a recurrence.

The PSA calls for accountability at the appropriate level, based on facts and individual responsibility rather than a blanket approach affecting employees who were not responsible for procurement decisions. The Presidency had achieved clean audits for three consecutive years and was commended by the Auditor-General as recently as May 2026 for maintaining sound financial discipline. The latest finding therefore requires an urgent institutional response to prevent deterioration.

Failures in governance and internal controls undermine employee morale, public confidence, and the Presidency's ability to fulfil its constitutional responsibilities. The PSA supports decisive action to strengthen procurement controls, internal audit, financial management, and consequence management. Such measures must remain fair, transparent, and consistent with labour legislation and collective agreements.

The PSA's position is clear: Public funds must be protected with accountability and innocent employees must not be scapegoated for management failures.

The Presidency must restore confidence in its audit outcomes and demonstrate that accountability, good governance, and ethical public administration remain non-negotiable.

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