

**MEDIA RELEASE**      PSA calls for aggressive action and criminal prosecution over R380 million ghost tender scandal in Mpumalanga

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**EMBARGO**                NONE

**ENQUIRIES.**              [communication@psa.co.za](mailto:communication@psa.co.za)

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged following revelations contained in a forensic report exposing a R380 million ghost tender linked to the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA). The report uncovers gross maladministration, manipulated procurement, and unlawful approvals under the leadership of suspended CEO.

The PSA condemns this blatant abuse of public resources and the deliberate cover-up by the provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The 103-page Nexia SAB&T report, finalised in May 2025, clearly recommends criminal charges against implicated officials, yet no action has been taken. Public funds meant to promote tourism, create jobs, and protect heritage sites were diverted into phantom projects. Investigators confirmed that the R380 million project at the Makhonjwa Mountains World Heritage Site never existed. The site remains untouched, covered in natural vegetation, despite payments exceeding R9.8 million to Vuxaka Consulting Engineers for “concept and viability studies.”

The PSA demands immediate and aggressive action from law enforcement agencies. The Special Investigating Unit (SIU), the Hawks, and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) must act without delay. Those responsible for this large-scale fraud must face criminal prosecution and financial recovery processes must be initiated to reclaim every cent stolen from the public purse. This scandal exposes the continuing decay of ethical governance in Mpumalanga. It highlights the urgent need for the implementation of lifestyle audits, financial disclosure compliance, and the strengthening of internal audit units within all provincial departments and public entities. The silence from the political leadership and their failure to act on this forensic report signals complicity and undermines accountability.

The PSA calls on the Premier of the Province to immediately suspend all officials implicated in the Nexia SAB&T report. Refer the matter to the SIU for criminal and financial investigation and publish the full forensic report to ensure transparency. Lastly, enforce consequence management against senior management and board members who violated procurement laws.

The PSA reminds government leaders that every rand lost to corruption translates to fewer jobs, fewer services, and less development. Workers and communities cannot continue to suffer while public officials enrich themselves through deceit. The PSA stands firm in defense of accountability and ethical leadership. The public deserves action, not excuses.

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