

MEDIA RELEASE PSA calls for fair processes and greater investment in Border Management

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) representing employees in the Border Management Authority (BMA) and across the public service, notes with serious concern reports by the BMA regarding allegations that certain border officials may have facilitated the illegal movement of undocumented migrants through ports of entry in exchange for bribes. The PSA fully supports efforts to root out corruption wherever it occurs in the public service.

At the same time, the PSA cautions against the actions of a few individuals being used to tarnish the reputation of the thousands of dedicated and hardworking border officials, who perform their duties with integrity often under difficult circumstances. Most BMA employees remain committed to protecting South Africa's borders, facilitating legitimate trade and travel, and ensuring compliance with immigration laws. These allegations underscore the urgent need for government to continue strengthening border management systems through improved technology, enhanced surveillance capabilities, adequate staffing levels, and ongoing anti-corruption measures. Border officials often operate in challenging environments characterised by high volumes of movement, criminal syndicates, resource constraints, and significant operational pressures.

The PSA believes that combating corruption requires a balanced approach that includes accountability, proper supervision, strengthened internal controls, protection for whistleblowers, and an investment in employee wellbeing. Employees who report corruption must be protected from victimisation, while investigations must be conducted fairly and without prejudice. The PSA further calls on government to accelerate the modernisation of ports of entry and ensure that the BMA is adequately resourced to fulfil its mandate.

Border security is a national priority that requires both effective enforcement and sufficient institutional support. The PSA will continue to engage the employer on measures aimed at strengthening integrity within the BMA, while protecting the rights of employees and ensuring that disciplinary processes comply with applicable labour laws and principles of natural justice. South Africans deserve secure borders, accountable institutions, and a public service that operates with integrity. The PSA remains committed to supporting initiatives that advance these objectives while safeguarding the rights and dignity of public servants.

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