

**MEDIA RELEASE**      PSA calls for forensic audit amidst secrecy over EU donor funds at Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed by a glaring lack of transparency surrounding the management and utilisation of European Union (EU) donor funds allocated to the Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities.

Recent developments and reports indicate that critical information on how these funds were administered, disbursed, and monitored has been withheld from staff, labour representatives, and the public. Such secrecy raises questions about governance, accountability, and compliance with public finance regulations and donor conditions.

The PSA views this lack of disclosure as a red flag in a Department plagued by administrative instability and poor financial controls. Donor funds are intended to advance essential programmes that support vulnerable groups. Any mismanagement or concealment directly undermines the Department's mandate and the intended beneficiaries.

In view of these concerns, the PSA calls for an immediate independent forensic audit into the management of all EU donor funds received by the Department. There must be full public disclosure of all related contracts, procurement processes, funding agreements, and expenditure reports. Accountability measures must be implemented against any official found to have acted improperly or unlawfully, with assurances that future donor-funded initiatives will comply with strict governance, monitoring, and reporting standards.

Public institutions, especially those entrusted with serving women, youth, and persons with disabilities, must uphold the highest levels of ethics and financial integrity. Donor funds are not private resources and are entrusted to the State for the benefit of the public and must be managed accordingly.

The PSA will continue to monitor the situation and will not hesitate to escalate the matter to relevant oversight bodies, including Parliament and the Auditor-General, should transparency not be urgently restored.

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