

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for full accountability as Minister acts on Department of Correctional Services corruption allegations
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing thousands of employees at the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), welcomes the decision by the Minister of Correctional Services to suspend four senior officials pending investigations into allegations of fraud related to a departmental tender.

The PSA has consistently maintained that allegations of corruption and maladministration in the DCS must be addressed decisively. The PSA was amongst the first labour organisations to raise concerns regarding the controversial bread tender, in which prices were allegedly inflated, raising questions about the responsible use of public funds.

The Minister's intervention is an important step towards accountability and transparency. Whilst welcoming the Minister's intervention, the PSA emphasises that the suspension of officials does not imply guilt. Implicated officials are entitled to due process, fairness, and an opportunity to respond to the allegations against them. The PSA supports lawful investigations that are conducted impartially, transparently, and expeditiously.

The Minister's decision sends a strong message that allegations of corruption will not be ignored, and that those entrusted with public resources must be held to the highest standards of accountability. Such action is necessary to restore confidence in the DCS, reassure public servants who perform their duties diligently, and discourage the abuse of public resources for personal gain. Public funds belong to the people of South Africa and must be safeguarded at all times. Any initiative aimed at protecting the public purse and ensuring accountability deserves the support of all stakeholders committed to building an ethical and effective public service.

The PSA, however, cautions that corruption is not the only threat facing the DCS. The PSA calls on the Minister to also examine governance and leadership concerns that continue to undermine institutional stability, including conduct that weakens established collective bargaining processes and labour relations frameworks. Abuse of authority and the exercise of powers beyond those provided for in law can be as damaging to an institution as financial misconduct. When collective bargaining structures are disregarded and labour-relations principles are undermined, trust is eroded, staff morale declines, and organisational effectiveness is weakened.



The PSA therefore calls on the Minister to broaden efforts to restore integrity and accountability in the DCS. Genuine reform must address corruption and governance failures if the DCS is to regain credibility and fulfil its constitutional mandate effectively. The PSA will support all lawful initiatives aimed at rebuilding the DCS, restoring professional standards, and rebuilding the pride that dedicated DCS officials deserve.

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