

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for immediate suspension of corrupt Independent Development Trust officials
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged by shocking revelations of alleged fraud and gross mismanagement in a R836 million oxygen plant project, overseen by the Independent Development Trust (IDT).

The project that aimed to install oxygen plants at 60 hospitals nationwide was seen as an opportunity for self-enrichment by greedy employees and service providers. What began as a R216 million initiative to install life-saving oxygen plants at South African public hospitals, has inexplicably ballooned to R836 million. This staggering escalation, reportedly owing to irregular procurement processes and cost overruns, is a grave betrayal of public trust and a direct threat to the integrity of South Africa's healthcare system. A forensic investigation further revealed that several companies were awarded contracts without having valid South African Health Products Regulatory Authority licences, which clearly demonstrates ill-intention.

The PSA condemns the apparent disregard for due process and fiscal responsibility, particularly in a sector as critical as public health. With millions of South Africans relying on state healthcare, every misallocated rand undermines the quality of care and endangers lives.

The PSA therefore calls for immediate suspension of all officials implicated in alleged misconduct, pending the outcome of investigations. Whilst investigations are underway, there is a need to implement stricter procurement and project-management protocols to prevent further abuse of public resources. Corruption and mismanagement cannot be allowed to flourish, especially when compromising essential services. The PSA urges the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure to implement consequence management to rid the IDT of fraudsters and greedy employees. Cases must be opened at the South African Police Service for culprits and processes must ensue to recover the vast amounts of stolen money. The PSA is firm in the Union's commitment to protect the interests of public servants and the citizens they serve.

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