

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for investigation into tender irregularities at South African Tourism
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 245 000 public-sector employees, calls for an immediate investigation into South African Tourism Tender Irregularities and disciplinary action against those who violated procurement processes. South African Tourism is a public entity reporting to the Minister of Tourism.

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is deeply concerned about recent claims that South African Tourism granted a tender for R100 million to a company that allegedly submitted fake documents with little or no experience. The tender relates to the Africa 2025 program and the Africa Travel Indaba.

The PSA condemns any sort of tender irregularity or fraud in procurement processes, particularly in the public sector. Such practices undermine the public trust, and it is a waste of valuable resources; it further jeopardises the credibility of public institutions. The PSA urges the Minister of Tourism to ensure that there is transparency and accountability in procurement processes.

The PSA calls for the Minister of Tourism to conduct an immediate and thorough investigation into the alleged tender irregularities and hold responsible all persons who have violated Supply Chain Management Policies and Regulations. The appropriate disciplinary action should also be taken against those accountable for any transgression.

There appears to be a trend of irregular tender processes at SA Tourism. It has previously been reported that treasury regulations and the *Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) Act No. 1 of 1999* were disregarded during the granting of a Tottenham Hotspur deal of R1 billion. Investigations proved that the tender was unlawful and invalid as it was not approved through the proper channels. The Hotspur deal was cancelled owing to gross irregularities and non-adherence to treasury regulations and Supply Management processes.

To prevent this kind of irregularities to happen in future and to restore the public trust and protect the integrity of future procurement processes, the PSA demands that the Department of Tourism, through the Minister should establish severe vetting procedures for all tender proposals and ensure that adjudication processes are transparent, fair and strict adherence to treasury regulations and Supply Management processes.

The PSA is committed to encouraging good governance, transparency, and accountability in all public-sector institutions. The PSA will continue to push for the highest ethical standards in the use of public resources.

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