

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for more protection for whistle blowers and increased resources for SIU and NPA
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is calling on the state and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to provide more protection to whistle blowers and state witnesses, especially regarding high-profile matters involving maladministration and corruption.

The recent murder of Ms Babita Deokaran who was a witness in the Gauteng personal protection equipment saga will deter whistle blowers from assisting in high-profile cases. The PSA therefore calls on the state to increase the capacity of the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) as well as the protection offered to state witnesses to encourage more witnesses to blow the whistle on corruption.

The PSA applauds the swift response by the police in arresting suspects in connection with the assassination of Ms Deokaran. According to reports, the suspects were paid millions to carry out the assassination, indicating the high level of looting by some corrupt tenderpreneurs who can afford paying millions to eliminate honest public servants to conceal their looting of state coffers. The PSA is aware that the Union's members at the SIU are working under tremendous pressure to ensure that proper investigations are conducted, despite not having the staff establishment increased to address capacity needs. This lack of resources has a risk of impacting negatively on operations. For members to effectively perform their function and ensure that corruption is dealt with decisively and expeditiously in South Africa, capacity needs must be addressed urgently.

The PSA further calls on the President to increase SIU and NPA capacity for speedy crime investigation, protection of state witnesses and successful prosecution to ensure the country liberates itself of the epidemic of corruption and looting that has paralysed the economy.

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