

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA calls for transparency amidst concerns regarding Senior Management qualifications in North West
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is worried about recent reports by the Public Service Commission (PSC), which indicated that only 68% of senior managers in the North West Premier's Office hold suitable qualifications.

The report further revealed that 31 out of 348 senior managers across 12 provincial departments may not possess the necessary qualifications required for their positions. In response to the report, the North West Premier's Office has disputed the findings, suggesting that the PSC's report may have been based on outdated or inaccurately captured data during the original qualifications audit. The Premier's Office has since confirmed that all senior managers have undergone a verification process and that their qualifications have been authenticated to meet the minimum entry requirements for the Senior Management Service. An updated report is expected to be submitted to the PSC to reflect this verification.

Whilst the PSA acknowledges the Premier's clarification and welcomes the commitment to professionalising the provincial public service, the PSA remains concerned about the implications of appointing unqualified persons to key leadership positions. If the initial PSC findings prove to be accurate, it could severely undermine the quality of public service delivery. Such practices would increase the risk of mismanagement, maladministration, and systemic inefficiency, potentially resulting in departments being placed under administration, as witnessed during previous administrations in the province.

The PSA therefore calls on the Premier's Office to publicly release the updated and verified qualifications report without delay. This transparency is critical in restoring public trust and ensuring accountability. The PSA also urges the provincial government to implement a system of continuous auditing and verification of senior management qualifications across all departments. Persons who were irregularly appointed must be held accountable in line with the *Public Service Act* and related regulations.

The PSA reiterates the Union's position that ethical governance, transparency, and properly qualified leadership are non-negotiable in delivering effective services to the citizens of the North West. The province cannot afford a repeat of past governance failures driven by unqualified and ill-equipped management. It is only through qualified, competent, and ethical leadership that public confidence in government institutions can be rebuilt.

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