

MEDIA RELEASE                      PSA calls for urgent intervention to stop excessive, unwarranted legal expenses in the public service

DATE                                      14 December 2023

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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) condemns, once again, the troubling and unacceptable practice of National Government Departments in appointing attorneys to preside over disciplinary cases and prosecute employees in such departments.

This regrettable trend raises serious concerns about fiscal responsibility and ethical conduct in the public sector. Despite the clear directive from government, emphasizing diligence in public expenditure, it is disheartening to observe the persistence of this inappropriate behaviour. The appointment of attorneys to oversee disciplinary matters not only raises questions about the judicious use of public funds but also calls into question the fairness and impartiality of the disciplinary process.

The PSA is further extremely concerned about indications that some government departments are resorting to reviewing cases at the Labour Court, potentially as a strategic manoeuvre to divert attention from adverse findings related to their own conduct. This not only reflects a lack of accountability but also erodes public trust in the transparency of government institutions. Awards issued against the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform underscore the gravity of this issue. These awards confirm the failure of these Departments to adhere to public service prescripts. The PSA is alarmed by apparent attempts to conceal these findings through the pursuit of seemingly futile cases in the Labour Court.

Of particular concern is the Department of Home Affairs' decision to review the rulings issued against it. This raises questions about the commitment of the Department to accountability and the principles that underpin the public service.

The PSA calls for an immediate re-evaluation of these practices in National Government Departments, urging for a return to ethical conduct, fiscal responsibility, and transparency. It is imperative that the public's trust in government institutions is restored, and the PSA remains steadfast in advocating for accountability and responsible governance.

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