

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA cautiously welcomes Department of Home Affairs launch of biometric-verification system
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has noted the launch of a biometric-verification system by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) as part of "Operation New Broom" to combat illegal immigration.

Whilst the PSA supports initiatives aimed at upholding the rule of law and ensuring national security, the Union believes it is crucial to critically analyse the implications of this new system. The DHA is commended for taking a step by taking advantage of technological advancements. There is still, however, a need to address staff shortages at the DHA as the success of any system depends on adequate human capital to ensure efficient implementation.

The biometric-verification system promises to significantly reduce the risk of fraudulent documents, thereby strengthening the legal framework for addressing illegal immigration. The use of advanced technology is expected to streamline the verification process, making it faster and more accurate.

This initiative underscores government's commitment to upholding due process and legal compliance. The DHA must, however, still clarify the issue of privacy as the implementation of biometric verification raises concerns about the privacy and security of personal data. It is essential to ensure that robust data-protection measures are in place to safeguard personal information.

The success of this initiative depends on adequate funding and resources. It is therefore imperative that government allocates sufficient resources to ensure the effective implementation and maintenance of the biometric system. Government is known for implementing systems that are not maintained and collapse, with no accountability. There is also critical need for the government system to interface, which will result in easy detection and uprooting of criminality. The PSA is committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of public servants and all South Africans.

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