

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA cautiously welcomes health sector anti-corruption measures
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) cautiously welcomes the endeavour by Minister of Health to address corruption in South Africa's health system.

The PSA, representing thousands of employees in the health sector, has always been resolute that the tender system creates fertile ground for corruption, something the Minister failed to address. The PSA commends the convening of the National Health Council and the inclusion of key stakeholders such as Health MECs, the SA Military Health Services, and metropolitan health authorities in discussions aimed at rooting out systemic corruption.

The PSA is particularly encouraged by the planned workshop for CEOs of major hospitals, where the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) will provide critical insights into methods used by corrupt officials and syndicates. These workshops must, however, be extended to employees in internal audit, finance, and procurement to ensure that the control measures are implemented across all levels.

This proactive approach is a vital step towards restoring integrity and accountability in public healthcare institutions. The PSA has long advocated for transparency and ethical conduct in the public service and believes that empowering hospital leadership with the tools to detect and prevent corruption is essential to safeguarding public resources and ensuring quality healthcare delivery. The PSA further calls for swift implementation of the SIU's recommendations, including blacklisting persons and companies involved in corruption.

The protection for whistleblowers who expose corruption also needs strengthening to avoid a repeat of what happened to Babita Deokaran. The PSA demands accountability for all implicated persons, regardless of rank or status. There is a need for collaboration between government, unions, and civil society to strengthen oversight mechanisms if public officials are to promote clean governance and protect the interests of public servants and the communities they serve.

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