

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA commends signing of proclamation authorising Special Investigation Unit to probe affairs of National Skills Fund
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the intervention at the National Skills Fund (NSF) through the recent signing of a proclamation authorising the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to probe the Fund's affairs.

This decisive action underscores the commitment to transparency, accountability, and the effective management of public resources. The SIU's investigation will cover the period beginning from 2013 to 28 March 2025. The investigation was triggered by widespread reporting of maladministration, improper or unlawful conduct by officials, and possible mismanagement of allocated funds. Particular attention will be paid to procurement and contracting processes related to skills development programmes, training projects, and the appointment of implementing agents for projects listed in the proclamation signed by the President. The NSF, similar to many entities, seems to be a harvesting field of unscrupulous service providers and unethical employees who collude to illegally enrich themselves.

The NSF plays a crucial role in advancing national skills development and empowering South Africa's youth. This investigation will assist in restoring confidence in the NSF and ensure that it continues to fulfil its mandate of supporting skills development initiatives across the country. The Minister of Higher Education's assurance that the NSF will comply with all legal requirements and provide full cooperation to the SIU, is a testament to her commitment to lawful conduct and good governance. The PSA supports this approach and believes it will set the NSF on a new trajectory, positioning it as a catalyst for change in communities.

The PSA urges all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards a sustainable solution that safeguards the interests of South Africa's workforce and ensures the effective use of public funds. The PSA believes in the rule of law, in that everyone is innocent until proven guilty, but calls for consequence management for all those who are found to have participated in any form of improper conduct as state entities must rid themselves of corruption that robs South Africans of efficient service delivery.

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