

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA concerned about corruption and maladministration at Msunduzi Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about the maladministration of funds and corruption at the Msunduzi Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal.

In March 2025, the Municipality received a qualified audit opinion for the 2023/24-financial year with the flagging of R900 million in irregular, wasteful, and fruitless expenditure. The report also found that there were irregularities in human resource practises with specific reference to the employment of employees, exceeding of overtime limits, and the understatement of electricity and water sales amounting to some R338 million. The Municipality has failed dismally and has been placed under administration for the third time.

Municipalities play a crucial role in providing essential services to communities. These include water, sanitation, electricity, and waste management. Maladministration and corruption undermine municipalities' ability to deliver these services effectively, resulting in a decline citizens' quality of life. Many municipalities are plagued by irregular expenditure, tender irregularities, nepotism, theft, and fraud. The consequences of the maladministration of municipalities' funds can be severe and include poor service delivery, a loss of public trust, and social unrest.

The Msunduzi Municipality struggles with infrastructure failures often owing to poor maintenance and years of neglect. Potholes are a common sight with the Municipality failing to repair these, which is causing accidents. There are constant electricity outages as municipal debt to Eskom amounts to R644 million. This situation has a disastrous impact on facilities such as hospitals where electricity is crucial to save lives. Water outages affect schools, hospitals, government departments, and the community at large, which is an infringement of the basic rights of South African citizens. In addition, various areas experience significant delays in refuse collection, which affects sanitation and can cause health hazards.

The PSA calls on government to uphold the principle of zero tolerance towards corruption and to eradicate maladministration. The PSA is committed to a fair and transparent society and continues to protect the rights of public-sector employees as section 33 in the *South African Constitution* guarantees everyone the right to administrative action that is lawful, reasonable, and procedurally fair. The maladministration of funds infringes on those rights.

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