

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA concerned about instability at KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                              communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned regarding the alleged political interference at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, which apparently led to the recent resignation of the Head of Department, Mr Thando Tubane, and contributes to ongoing instability in the Department.

The PSA is further concerned by the lack of intervention from the Office of the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal in preventing this resignation. Mr Tubane, served as the Head of the Department for more than a decade and had a spotless record of good governance, accomplishing set targets, and ensuring the application of fair labour practices to employees. Mr Tubane's commitment to fair labour practices is reflected in the instance where the Department agreed in 2021 to the conversion of 136 contract positions to permanent posts following negotiations with the PSA as representative Union of these employees who had served the Department on a contract basis for more than ten years. Under the decisive leadership of Mr Tubane and the former MEC of the Department, Mr Siphon Hlomuka, employee issues were addressed with utmost professionalism, leaving no room for fear or favouritism. Mr Tubane is also commended for his progressive approach of including deputy directors in senior management structure meetings. Under his tenure, alongside MEC Hlomuka, stability reigned in the Department.

The PSA stands firmly in support of good governance and urges the Premier to take decisive action in protecting officials, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The PSA further urgently calls for the protection of the accounting office and for officials to be allowed to effectively manage their departments, without being political pawns. The PSA trusts that appropriate measures will be taken to safeguard experienced officials who are crucial to the continued success of government.

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