

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA concerned about unexplained, abrupt removal of SITA Board by Minister of Communications and Digital Communication**

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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA), as the majority union at the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), is alarmed by the removal of the SITA Board and the irrational appointment of a new *interim* Board by the Minister of Communications and Digital Communication.

SITA failed to engage labour, as social partners in the organisation, in this matter, thus causing concerns. The PSA is worried that this sudden action will, amongst others, delay salary negotiation for SITA employees. The PSA had already tabled salary demands for 2023 to the SITA management and the Board. The PSA was awaiting a counteroffer from SITA after a clear mandate from the Board. The sub-committee of the Board was at the final stage of completing the mandate. The delay in finalising salary negotiations adversely affects employees.

The PSA is further not satisfied with the appointment of Mr L Keyise as Director and Chairperson of the *interim* Board. Mr Keyise previously served as SITA Administrator and failed to improve the entity's financial affairs. This created instability and destroyed labour peace in the organisation. The PSA views his appointment as Director and Chairperson of the Board as counter-productive and anti-progressive in achieving SITA's mandate.

The PSA urges the Minister of Communications and Digital Communication to keep in mind that SITA's mandate is to "improve service delivery to the public through the provision of information technology, information systems, and related services in a maintained information system security environment to government departments and public bodies; and to promote the efficiency of departments and public bodies through the use of information technology." The rash decision to replace the Board is set to derail SITA's ability to achieve its mandate.

The PSA wrote a letter to SITA management, expressing disappointment with the termination of the Board of Directors and the appointment of an *interim* Board. The PSA further demanded a clear explanation on the reasons for this sudden change. An urgent meeting has been called with SITA to explain the sudden disbandment of the Board.

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