

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA condemns alleged wasteful expenditure and financial mismanagement in Water and Sanitation</b>
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<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), is concerned about the effects of the collapse of corporate governance and corruption is having on its members in government. A clear example of this is the financial mismanagement in the Department of Water and Sanitation.

“The fact that a forensic investigation into allegations of corruption and maladministration has been delayed, by apparent incompetent handling of the procurement process by both previous and current key leaders in the Department, has a serious impact on both our members and the sustainable delivery of water and sanitation in the country. Continued mismanagement, maladministration, and corruption cannot be tolerated, especially during these distressing economic times,” said PSA General Manager, Ivan Fredericks.

The long history of instability at Director-General level has created a management vacuum. This has contributed to the mismanagement of funds, which has already impacted substantially on employees. This already manifested into industrial action earlier this year. Meanwhile, Construction workers, responsible for the building and maintenance of dams and related infrastructure, have been the most affected. These workers have been living under a constant threat of retrenchment, since the lack of funds led to an almost complete collapse of operations, with Water and Sanitation not taking on new projects and existing projects having come to a standstill or needing to be outsourced to the private sector.

The process of dealing with water resource management, at catchment level, has also been severely mismanaged and the uncertainty about the best future model to deal with this has just added to the general uncertainty and anxiety amongst employees. The lack of funds also impacted severely on normal operations such as travel for official purposes. Heads must roll in this department, we call on President Cyril Ramaphosa to deliver on his promise to uproot corruption and the only way to do this, is for him to deal with those responsible, including current and previous cabinet ministers or else he will be proving his sceptics correct, in that he is just a toothless president with no authority.

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