

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA condemns criminal currency manipulation by banks and devastating impact on economy**

DATE 28 November 2023

EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 245 000 public-sector employees, strongly condemns actions by South African banks that have further exacerbated the economic challenges faced by citizens.

Corrupt activities of these financial institutions not only erode trust in the banking system but also inflict severe consequences on over-burdened South Africans. As consumers grapple with soaring prices, stagnant wages, the aftermath of COVID-19 mismanagement, rampant loadshedding, and the lingering effects of corruption, the revelation of rand manipulation adds another layer of adversity to their struggles.

This manipulation not only distorts the market but directly impacts the purchasing power of individuals and the overall stability of the economy. The PSA urges regulatory bodies to conduct an urgent thorough and transparent investigation into these allegations. These responsible should be held accountable for their actions. Fines meted out by the Competition Commission to these erring institutions are but a “drop in the ocean” compared to the illicit profit made by the banks. The country is already in a dire economic situation brought about by the loadshedding crisis, maladministration and corruption and the impact of currency manipulation on ordinary citizens is devastating with ripple effects on cost-of-living expense increases because of manipulation of the exchange-control process.

Citizens deserve a financial system that operates with integrity and serves their best interests. Swift and decisive actions must be taken to rectify the damage caused by these unethical practices. The PSA urges affected banks to cooperate fully with investigations and implement necessary reforms to prevent such misconduct in the future.

In this time of economic uncertainty, the PSA stand in solidarity with South Africans and calls for collective efforts to rebuild trust, foster transparency, and ensure the resilience of the country’s financial system.

END