MEDIA RELEASE   **PSA condemns the irregular R40 million Beitbridge border fence tender**

DATE   20 August 2020

EMBARGO   None

Enquiries   Reuben Maleka
                          082 903 6808

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 240 000 public servants, is appalled by the allegations of an irregular tender process at the Beitbridge border project. It was reported that the officials and the service provider inflated the prices of the border fence to enrich themselves. The investigation into the project found that the processes did not comply with the procurement processes as promulgated by Treasury regulations.

The PSA welcomed the conclusion of the investigation into the matter but urges the department to finalise the disciplinary processes as a matter of urgency to maintain the rule of law. The PSA is disturbed by the fact that citizens are robbed of their tax monies and the public servants are also denied their deserved salary increase. The perpetrators stole from the poor to enrich themselves. The construction of the border fence was intended to curb illegal movement of people between Zimbabwe and South Africa, but due to the shoddy work done by the service provider, there have been multiple unlawful crossings into the country. The PSA condemns any unlawful conduct or irregular procurement of any goods and services. The department must refer the matter to the SAPS to pursue criminal charges and all the monies gained through illegal means must be recovered by law enforcement agencies. The rule of law and natural justice must prevail.

Those involved in corruption and maladministration, irrespective of their positions, must be made to account for their misconduct. The PSA will continue to advocate for zero-tolerance of corruption in the Public Service and encourages public servants to continue to report any form of corruption through the anti-corruption hotline.

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