

MEDIA RELEASE **COVID-19: PSA demands investigation into alleged sale of food parcels in Limpopo**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is shocked by allegations that food parcels meant for less privileged and needy people were stolen by public officials and sold in Belabela, in the Waterberg District of Limpopo.

This criminal conduct undermines efforts by the Limpopo government to alleviate poverty in the province. It is well known that the province is approaching an unemployment rate of 40% with most people depending on social grants. Many families depend on income from piece jobs, which is now cut off by the lockdown. Children who normally receive meals at schools are also home, which aggravates the food shortage.

In these desperate times it is unthinkable that some unscrupulous public officials can be oblivious of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities and enrich themselves at the expense of desperate people. Such greed and moral decay cannot be part of South African culture and those found guilty of enriching themselves through fraudulent and illegal means must face the consequences. It is important that effective control measures and monitoring efforts be applied to ensure that the intended beneficiaries are reached by government's intervention programme.

The PSA calls upon the MEC of Social Development to thoroughly investigate this matter and ensure that those implicated face the wrath of the law.

END

