

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA demands Mpumalanga Premier's to institute Forensic Investigation on ghost employees in Department of Education
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged by reports of alleged ghost employees in the Mpumalanga Department of Education, reportedly costing taxpayers billions of rands.

Recent Auditor-General findings indicate irregular expenditure of some R1.8 billion over the past two years, allegedly owing to salary payments to employees who have died, resigned, retired, or have been dismissed. This level of mismanagement is unacceptable, unlawful, and a direct attack on service delivery. It diverts critical resources away from schools, learners, and educators, whilst undermining public confidence in the Provincial government.

Attempts to blame system errors or downplay these allegations are insufficient. The PSA warns that negligence, inaction, or attempts to cover up wrongdoing will not be tolerated. The PSA demands urgent intervention by the Premier of Mpumalanga and the Department of Education to immediately verify and audit all employees to identify ghost workers and quantify financial losses. All irregular payments must be recovered and redirect to education, jobs, and public service priorities. Responsible officials must be held accountable through criminal, disciplinary, and administrative measures where applicable. Payroll monitoring, reporting systems, and verification processes must be strengthened to prevent future abuse. Public reports on audit findings, recovery progress, and corrective measures must be published quarterly, with protection against retaliation for whistleblowers and employees who expose irregularities.

The PSA calls on all public servants, unions, and concerned citizens to report irregularities and participate in independent verification processes. The PSA warns that the time for excuses is over. If decisive action is not taken immediately, the Union will escalate legal, industrial, and public campaigns.

The PSA urges the Premier to act decisively to restore accountability, protect public funds, and safeguard the integrity of the Department of Education.

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