

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **CR17 High Court ruling: PSA demands Public Protector's resignation**

**DATE**                                      11 March 2020

**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                             Reuben Maleka  
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The unanimous ruling by the North Gauteng High Court on 10 March 2020, setting aside the Public Protector's report on the President's CR17 campaign, has not surprised the Public Servants Association (PSA).

The PSA, one of the largest unions in the public sector, indicated that the judgement in favour of the President underlines the fact that the Public Protector, Adv Busisiwe Mkhwebane, is not focusing on her Constitutional mandate as she is distracted by efforts to purge employees and union leaders. As a result, Adv Mkhwebane does not have the full support of staff. The Court found that that the Public Protector's findings were filled with material errors in law and that she did not even have jurisdiction to investigate the funding of the CR17 campaign. The PSA agrees with the Court that Adv Mkhwebane displayed a "complete lack of basic knowledge of the law and its application" and that the scathing judgement described some of her findings "unfathomable "

The CR17 report is furthermore not the only report to be set aside by a Court, as there were two other reports of national interest that followed the same route. The PSA has previously condemned the Public Protector's frivolous litigation at the expense of overburdened taxpayers.

The PSA thus welcomes the fact Adv Mkhwebane was ordered to pay the legal costs of the President, the National Assembly Speaker, Thandi Modise, and National Director of Public Prosecutions, Adv Shamila Batohi, against who she issued remedial action in her report. These cost orders underline the fact that frivolous litigation processes should be dealt decisively owing to the financial burden on the country's struggling economy.

In view of the judgement, the PSA demands that the Public Protector should stop victimising employees in her office and in respect for the Office, vacate her office.

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