

MEDIA RELEASE PSA demands urgent investigation of R630 million missing grants at ETDP SETA

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is alarmed by recent reports indicating that more than R630 million in skills-development grants have vanished without a trace at the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP SETA).

This revelation comes in the wake of ongoing governance concerns at the SETA, including allegations of financial mismanagement, irregular procurement decisions, and an escalating breakdown in internal controls. Recent media reports highlighted severe governance lapses, including payments for hazardous and unusable buildings, stalled internal investigations, and allegations implicating senior officials. The PSA views the disappearance of over R630 million as a catastrophic failure of governance and a blatant betrayal of South Africans who rely on SETAs to drive skills development, job readiness, and economic opportunity. These funds are meant to empower unemployed youth, educators, education support staff, and community development workers and should not disappear into administrative chaos or possible corruption.

The PSA is particularly concerned about emerging allegations pointing at a collapse in internal financial oversight, irregular actions by senior management, defiance of board instructions, the suspension of officials who attempted to enforce compliance, and failure to safeguard public funds despite repeated warnings. Such actions undermine the integrity of public institutions and further erode public trust.

The PSA demands that the Minister of Higher Education and Training urgently order an independent forensic investigation into the missing R630 million and all related transactions. In order to ensure consequence management, a full public report detailing the extent of financial losses and steps taken to recover funds must be tabled. Implicated officials should be suspended, including those who interfered with internal investigations. It is further critical to ensure protection for whistleblowers at the SETA.

The PSA warns that the continued looting of public funds in the SETA environment is not unethical and undermines national skills-development priorities at a time when unemployment remains at crisis levels.

END