

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA extremely concerned about victimisation of “whistle-blowers”
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned that “whistle-blowers” in South Africa are not receiving the required protection as contemplated in the *Protected Disclosure Act*.

The *Act* is aimed at ensuring that employees who expose wrongdoing are not subjected to victimisation or any form of discrimination by their employers. Recent reports have, however, shown that this is often not the case. The Minister of Public Enterprise, Mr Pravin Gordon, for example choose to ignore the *Act* and appoint a forensic investigator to find the individual who leaked information on the Minister’s appointment of his Chief of Staff. The leaked information indicated that the Chief of Staff does not possess the necessary qualifications for the post she occupies. It is also alleged that the Chief of Staff practised nepotism by appointing family members in the Department.

The Minister’s failure to rebut these allegations publicly shows that there is no intention to take seriously the allegations by the whistle-blower. The Minister chose to appoint a forensic investigator at the expense of taxpayers to ascertain who leaked the information rather than investigating the serious allegations.

The initial investigation led to the suspension of various employees in the Department and the resignation of one employee. This practice is in direct violation of the *Protected Disclosure Act* and is set to prevent future whistle-blowers from exposing wrongdoing if they are not protected and subjected to victimisation.

The PSA is appalled by the fact that employers would waste taxpayers’ money to subject whistle-blowers to victimisation. The PSA calls on Minister Gordon to immediately suspend the investigation and urgently release a report on the allegations made against his Chief of Staff.

END

