

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA in KwaZulu-Natal calls for an investigation into threats made against Director-General resulting in resignation
DATE	13 June 2025
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) in KwaZulu-Natal, representing more than 50,000 provincial members and over 240,000 public servants nationwide, is deeply alarmed by disturbing allegations surrounding the resignation of the KwaZulu-Natal Director-General, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize. Reports indicate that her departure was precipitated by direct threats of violence and political interference, demanding immediate public scrutiny and decisive action.

Allegations that Dr Mkhize was threatened with physical harm for refusing to comply with irregular instructions, allegedly linked to appointments related to the R100 million Youth Fund, represent not only an abuse of power but a potential criminal act. If substantiated, these threats constitute a gross violation of her human rights, an assault on her professional autonomy, and a direct attack on the rule of law and ethical governance.

The PSA is outraged that a senior official, entrusted with upholding the provinces' administrative integrity, could be subjected to such blatant intimidation. It is particularly disturbing that the threats reportedly emanated from within the Office of the Premier, allegedly at the hands of a youth manager who sought to force compliance with politically driven appointments. The alleged use of intimidation tactics to bend the will of a high-ranking official is not only reprehensible but is a betrayal of public trust and democratic accountability.

Such threats, especially when directed at a woman in leadership, strike at the core of gender equity and undermine the progress made in promoting women's empowerment in public service. The PSA views these allegations as a serious form of gender-based violence and a manifestation of a toxic political culture that punishes ethical resistance rather than celebrates it.

The PSA commends Mbali Frazer, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on the Office of the Premier, Community Safety and Liaison, for her courage in publicly confirming the nature of the threats faced by Dr Mkhize. Her intervention reflects principled leadership and a commitment to safeguarding the constitutional duty of parliamentary oversight. Her role has been pivotal in ensuring that these allegations are not swept under the rug but addressed with the urgency and seriousness they warrant.

The PSA reiterates its unyielding call for an independent and transparent investigation into the allegations, including the threats directed at Dr Mkhize. This must be done free from political manipulation and with full protection extended to whistleblowers and public servants who might come forward with corroborating information. The integrity of the Provincial Government depends on its ability to confront wrongdoing without fear or favour.

While strongly calling for accountability, the PSA also upholds the right to procedural fairness and natural justice for all parties involved. However, there can be no compromise when it comes to acts of intimidation, coercion, or

threats of violence, particularly against those who resist corruption or irregular conduct. The Provincial Administration must send a clear message that such acts will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

The PSA acknowledges the public commitment by Premier Thami Ntuli to clean governance and ethical leadership. Considering the serious nature of the threats allegedly levelled against Dr Mkhize, the Premier must act decisively to ensure that no official, regardless of position, is immune from investigation or sanction. A failure to act firmly in this matter would severely damage the credibility of the Provincial Government.

Finally, the PSA reiterates its solidarity with all public servants who carry out their duties with integrity, often under immense pressure. The threats reported in this matter are not just an attack on an individual; they are an attack on the very foundations of public administration.

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