

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA outraged by allegations of cadre deployment against Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure
DATE	1 June 2026
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged by the ongoing destructive practice of cadre deployment in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

This follows reports that the Public Service Commission confirmed an investigation into allegations surrounding the appointment of a Chief Director: Executive Support in the Office of the Director-General. Allegations include claims that the post was not advertised, that proper recruitment procedures were not followed, and that the appointment may have involved external influence in contravention of the Public Service Regulations.

The PSA is disheartened that the Department has ignored a constitutional mandate for the public service that is unambiguous in that administration must be professional, impartial, and strictly merit based. The persistence of cadre deployment has effectively blurred the lines between political parties and government. Such action turns crucial public administration offices into extensions of political patronage networks and fails to comply with the departmental recruitment and selection policy. Cadre deployment is nothing less than formalised political nepotism. It sidelines qualified professionals, decimates workplace morale, and ensures that critical leadership positions are locked behind a political gate rather than supporting technical capability. The direct casualties of this broken system are citizens who are left to suffer the consequences of collapsing mismanaged funds and compromised departmental infrastructure.

The PSA is concerned that the long-term impact of this practise is that officials owe their livelihoods to a political committee rather than the public they serve. Institutional accountability is shattered, creating a breeding ground for systemic non-compliance and corruption. The PSA calls on the Public Service Commission to expedite investigations relating to this malpractice, noting that it implicates the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure who is expected to be playing a crucial role in the departmental oversight and good governance.

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