

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA questions payment of R35 million to suspended Department of Justice officials
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is extremely concerned following a recent disclosure by Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development that over R35 million had been paid in salaries to suspended departmental officials over the past five financial years.

This revelation highlights a troubling pattern of prolonged disciplinary processes and administrative inefficiencies. Whilst the PSA respects the right of the employer to precautionarily suspend employees to allow for unhindered investigations, the failure to comply with Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Resolution 1/2003 is concerning. The PSA is alarmed by the fact that many of these suspensions have extended well beyond the 60-day precautionary period prescribed by the Resolution and the Senior Management Service Handbook. It is a public knowledge that the Department is not adequately staffed, similar to most government departments that are failing to fill vacant positions to contain employee costs. This PSA has consistently opposed this position as the wellbeing of employees and service delivery are compromised. These disciplinary proceedings must be promptly concluded to avoid employees being under a dark cloud and uncertainty for prolonged periods, which have a detrimental effect on their wellbeing.

Whilst the PSA supports fair and lawful disciplinary procedures, the failure to conclude cases timeously undermines accountability and public trust in the justice system. The PSA urges the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to expedite disciplinary processes to prevent unnecessary financial losses. The Department must also ensure that those responsible for the implementation of disciplinary proceedings and investigations are adequately trained to ensure compliance.

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