

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA raises concern over uncertainty surrounding SITA reform, calls for urgent clarity
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has noted the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies' 2026/2027 Annual Performance Plan (APP), which identifies the repurposing of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) as a key institutional reform priority. While the PSA acknowledges the importance of revitalising public entities to strengthen their contribution to South Africa's digital economy, it is deeply concerned by the lack of clarity regarding what the proposed "repurposing" of SITA entails. The APP fails to outline whether the envisaged business model builds on existing reform recommendations or how it will address long-standing operational and governance challenges within the agency.

The PSA is further troubled by the continued uncertainty regarding SITA's institutional placement within government. The absence of a clear directive, pending a presidential proclamation, creates instability and undermines accountability, strategic alignment, and effective oversight. Frequent shifts between departments, including the Department of Communications and the Department of Public Service and Administration, have historically contributed to governance challenges within the entity. At a time when government is pursuing an ambitious digital transformation agenda, including the development of national AI policy and reforms within the broader communications sector, the lack of clarity on SITA's future risks weakening the state's capacity to deliver on these priorities.

The PSA also notes with concern the capacity constraints within the Department of Communications itself, including a reported vacancy rate of approximately 25%. Attempting to drive complex institutional reforms such as SITA's redesign under such conditions raises serious questions about the feasibility and credibility of the APP targets.

In light of these challenges, the PSA calls on the Minister of Communications, Solly Malatsi, to provide urgent clarity on the proposed repurposing of SITA, including its mandate, governance structure, and operational model; finalise the institutional placement of SITA to ensure stability, accountability, and strategic coherence; ensure that any reform process is transparent, consultative, and inclusive of organised labour, particularly given the potential impact on workers; and address capacity constraints within the department to enable effective implementation of its reform agenda.

The PSA remains committed to supporting reforms that enhance state capacity, improve service delivery, and protect the interests of public servants. However, such reforms must be grounded in transparency, proper planning, and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

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