

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA shocked by Public Service senior managers' lack of qualifications**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), as one of the largest Unions in the Public Service and representing more than 240 000 public-sector employees, is shocked by the revelation to Parliament that nearly 35% of senior managers in the Public Service do not possess the required qualifications.

The Minister of Public Service and Administration, Senzo Mchunu, in response to a Parliamentary question indicated that of the 9 477 senior managers listed on the salary system, 3 301 do not have the required qualification. A total of 1 987 of these officials are employed in national departments.

The current situation across government departments and the vast irregular expenditure previously revealed by the Auditor General can be ascribed to the shocking scenario as presented by Minister Mchunu to Parliament. Ongoing cadre deployment at the expense of competent and qualified personnel has contributed to a disaster where nepotism, political interference, lack of accountability, mismanagement and corruption have become the norm.

The PSA calls on President Ramaphosa to ensure that senior managers in the Public Service, including Directors General, are employed on a full-time basis rather than on a five-year contract. A competent senior management, employed on a full-time basis, will ensure stability and consistency across government departments, regardless of changes to Ministers, members of the Executive Council or political power after elections. The PSA is scrutinising the draft *Public Service Amendment Bill*, which is circulated for public comment, and will make inputs to ensure that qualified Public Service senior managers are permanently appointed.

The PSA further welcomes the National Implementation Framework towards Professionalisation of the Public Service as this will support effective and efficient service delivery to citizens in working towards achieving a capable state that serves the interests of all citizens.

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