

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA support calls by SCOPA and demands accountability**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) applauds the stance taken by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) to call for full details of the roll-out tender of the COVID-19 vaccine and for state-owned entities (SOEs) to account for the grim audits received.

The PSA, which represents some 240 000 public-sector employees, is still not confident that Government has the necessary control measures in place to eradicate fraud and corruption in its tender and procurement processes. It is alarming to note that during a crisis period, ruthless individuals have exploited the situation at the expense of the most vulnerable in society. Recently, for example, billions of Rands were lost in a personal protective equipment scandal and the sanitisation of schools.

The devastation of the impact of the epidemic is in its early stage and if Government is unable to take control and prevent the looting of state coffers, the PSA fears the worst for the country and its economy. Full disclosures and transparency are thus key in ensuring accountability.

South African have had enough with the continuous failure by SOEs to deliver on their mandates and maintain a transparent and corruption-free institution. Ordinary citizens suffer and even lose their lives, whilst failing SOEs, such as Eskom, continue to receive bailouts from Government without a positive outcome. In the same vein, Government has pleaded poverty and was unable to pay public servants their salary increases in 2020.

In the face of mistrust expressed on various platforms around vaccines and superficial assurance, the PSA appeals to SCOPA to ensure that it fulfils its monitoring role during the entire process and that swift and decisive action is taken when necessary.

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