

MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes and supports Presidential Proclamation authorising corruption investigation at Eastern Cape Department of Public Works and Infrastructure

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 250 000 public-sector employees, welcomes and fully supports the signing of the Presidential Proclamation authorising the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to investigate allegations of corruption, fraud, and maladministration at the Eastern Cape Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

The Proclamation is an important step towards strengthening accountability, transparency, and good governance in the public sector. Corruption and systemic governance failures in state institutions undermine service delivery, divert scarce public resources, and negatively affect employees and the communities that rely on government services.

The PSA calls on all officials and employees to cooperate fully with the SIU throughout the investigation. Government must ensure that robust measures are implemented to protect whistle-blowers and employees who report unlawful activities. People who assist investigations should be safeguarded against intimidation, victimisation, or any form of retaliation. The impact of corruption and maladministration extends far beyond financial losses. Misallocation of public funds and inflated procurement costs weaken economic growth and investor confidence, whilst delaying or compromising the delivery of critical infrastructure and essential services. Communities are often left without adequate access to water, electricity, healthcare, housing, and other basic services, with the poorest and most vulnerable citizens bearing the greatest burden.

Persistent financial mismanagement and political patronage erode public trust in democratic institutions, weaken the rule of law, and contribute to social instability. Effective consequence management is therefore essential to restoring confidence in government institutions and ensuring that public resources are used for the intended purpose. The PSA calls for swift and decisive action against any people found to have engaged in corrupt or unlawful conduct. Where wrongdoing is proven, government must ensure appropriate disciplinary measures, criminal prosecution where applicable, and the recovery of all misappropriated public funds.

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