

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes arrests of three former senior employees of Office of Chief Justice
DATE	1 December 2023
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA), the majority union representing employees at the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ), welcomes the arrests of three former employees for committing criminal acts and misconduct in respect of a R225 million information technology tender contract.

The PSA commends law enforcement agencies for acting swiftly in this matter. The accused employees held senior positions at the OCJ and were expected to uphold the rule of law and discourage acts of criminality. They were entrusted with major responsibilities in the justice sector and were expected to lead by example.

The PSA has been continuously condemned corruption in the Department and continued to urge the Accounting Officer to implement consequence management. The accused employees include the former spokesperson, former chief financial officer, and former case management director. They were accused of assisting the technology organisation, *Thomas Reuters*, to strike a deal with the OCJ related to the national digital court case management system. They stood to earn 30% of the deal, amounting to millions of rands. The former employees were listed as directors of *ZA Square Consulting*, which had a subcontract with *Thomas Reuters*.

The PSA applauds the OCJ for opening the case against the corrupt officials. The PSA urges government to set example by condemning such acts of misconduct and criminal activities. The law must take its course and the justice system must impose a hefty sentence to perpetrators who continue to misuse and steal taxpayers' money. The PSA will continue to encourage employees and members of the public to report corruption activities and maladministration to the corruption hotline administered by the Public Service Commission.

END