

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes cancellation of R1.1 billion's contracts at Department of Water and Sanitation owing to corruption
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decision by the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to cancel irregular contracts amounting to some R1.1 billion at the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Whilst the SIU recovered R569 million in cash and assets, with 65 individuals and entities having been identified for in-depth background investigations, corruption continues to destroy government's capacity to provide services to citizens. Many communities are without running water or sharing water with animals, whilst greedy individuals, business owners, and corrupt employees continue to benefit. The discovery of significant irregularities, including manipulated payment systems and unauthorised expenditure, shows inadequate financial controls. Non-compliance with procurement processes seems to prevail in many departments, allowing unscrupulous and unethical individuals to take advantage of the situation. The implementation of additional lifestyle audits for individuals with unexplained wealth is therefore commendable.

Corruption has reached an unacceptable level, and any effort by the government is commendable. It is, however, concerning that 546 corruption complaints were registered in 2024 alone, with Gauteng leading with 45% of all corruption cases.

The PSA supports the SIU's commitment to transparency and accountability and urges all government departments to cooperate fully with ongoing investigations. These actions are crucial in restoring public trust and ensuring the integrity of public services. The PSA calls on the Minister of Water and Sanitation to implement the necessary measures to prevent maladministration and corruption. The PSA further calls for consequence management for anyone found to have participated in stealing money, including assisting service providers to raid state coffers. Such service providers must also be banned from doing business with the state. Stolen money must be recovered, and those found guilty of corruption imprisoned.

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