

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA welcomes government's initiative to introduce <i>Whistleblower Protection Bill</i>
<b>DATE</b>	06 March 2025
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the announcement by the Minister of Public Service and Administration that the South African government will introduce the *Whistleblower Protection Bill* in Parliament this year.

This significant development underscores government's commitment to strengthening legal safeguards for persons who expose corruption and misconduct. The PSA, as union representing more than 245 000 public-sector employees, has persistently advocated for enhanced protections for whistleblowers as they play a vital role in combatting crime and corruption. The PSA acknowledges the immense risks whistleblowers face, including intimidation, victimisation, and even threats to their personal safety. The proposed legislation is a crucial step in ensuring that persons who courageously report corruption are protected against retaliation.

The PSA supports government's recognition that whistleblowers are the cornerstone in the battle against corruption. Without their disclosures, many acts of maladministration and fraud would go undetected, undermining good governance and service delivery. The outcomes of the recent G20 Anti-Corruption Working Technical Meeting reinforced the need for strong international cooperation in combatting corruption. The PSA urges the South African government to ensure that the *Whistleblower Protection Bill* aligns with global best practices and provides comprehensive measures to safeguard whistleblowers. These measures should include legal protection, financial and psychological support, and avenues for safe reporting.

The PSA is committed to advocating for a corruption-free public sector and will continue to engage government on ensuring that the *Bill* is effectively implemented. The PSA further calls for rigorous enforcement mechanisms and accountability measures to ensure that whistleblower protections are not only policy declarations but result in tangible change. The battle against corruption requires collective effort, and the PSA encourages public-sector employees and citizens to stand firm against corruption whilst legal frameworks are being strengthened.

The PSA will continue to monitor progress with the *Bill* and will engage relevant stakeholders to ensure that whistleblower protection is a top priority in achieving transparency, accountability, and ethical governance in South Africa.

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