

MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes IDAC lifestyle audit as milestone in anti-corruption efforts

DATE 23 September 2026

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 250 000 public-sector employees, noted the directive issued by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) Head, Advocate Andy Mothibi, for a comprehensive lifestyle audit at the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption (IDAC).

The PSA regards this initiative as a necessary step towards strengthening accountability and transparency in the battle against corruption. Lifestyle audits are a critical tool to detect irregularities, unexplained wealth, and potential abuse of public resources. The PSA has consistently advocated for measures that safeguard the integrity of public institutions and protect workers from reputational harm caused by corruption. The PSA views this directive as a demonstration of leadership and commitment to restoring public confidence in the IDAC.

The PSA cautions that lifestyle audits must be conducted fairly, consistently, and legally. Workers' rights, privacy, and dignity must be respected throughout the process to avoid victimisation or selective targeting. Lifestyle audits should focus on systemic corruption and must not be misused as instruments of intimidation. Transparency in methodology and reporting will be essential to ensure credibility and public trust in outcomes.

The PSA calls for clear guidelines to be communicated to all affected employees to prevent uncertainty and anxiety. Any findings must be handled with due process, ensuring that employees have the right to respond and appeal. The PSA reiterates the Union's commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen ethical conduct in the public service. At the same time, the PSA will remain vigilant against any misuse of audits to undermine labour rights. Lifestyle audits should be accompanied by broader reforms to address structural weaknesses in governance. These reforms must include stronger whistleblower protections, improved financial disclosure systems, and enhanced investigative capacity.

The PSA views this directive as an opportunity to reinforce integrity at the IDAC and set a precedent for ethical governance across the public sector. The PSA calls on government to extend lifestyle audits across departments to create uniform accountability standards.

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