

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	PSA welcomes identification of ineligible SASSA beneficiaries and improved anti-fraud measures
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<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decisive steps taken by the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) to identify and remove ineligible beneficiaries from the social-grant system.

This follows the announcement by the Minister of Finance during the 2026 Budget Speech that government's upgraded biometric verification and income-assessment systems have resulted in the identification of nearly 35 000 social-grant beneficiaries who were receiving grants irregularly or fraudulently. These grants have subsequently been terminated.

The PSA commends SASSA for the successful deployment of a comprehensive fraud-prevention and detection system. This intervention marks an important milestone in safeguarding public resources and strengthening ethical governance in the public service. The protection of public funds is essential in ensuring that social grants reach legitimate beneficiaries who depend on these for survival. Whilst the PSA strongly supports decisive action against fraud and corruption, the Union emphasises the importance of protecting the rights and integrity of public servants, particularly grant administrators who are responsible for ensuring effective delivery of social assistance. It is essential that systems designed to detect fraud also safeguard employees and legitimate beneficiaries from unfair or unintended consequences.

The introduction of enhanced anti-fraud and anti-corruption mechanisms is a proactive measure that reinforces SASSA's institutional integrity and the professional security of employees. The PSA views these developments as a framework for fairness, accountability, and operational excellence in SASSA. Early detection of irregularities protects the public purse and prevents potential legal exposure and financial losses that could threaten organisational stability and job security.

As digital threats and internal fraud schemes become increasingly sophisticated, the PSA supports continued investment in a robust, multi-layered defence strategy to protect the integrity of the social grant system. The PSA calls on the Chief Executive Officer of SASSA to ensure that all officials who utilise biometric systems receive adequate and advanced training. Proper capacity building will enable employees to utilise technology effectively and strengthen SASSA's efforts to combat fraud and corruption. The PSA is committed to supporting initiatives that promote accountability, protect public resources, and ensure the fair and efficient delivery of social services to South Africans.

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