

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA welcomes investigation into tender fraud involving Minister of Health**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents more than 80 000 healthcare workers, welcomes the investigation into a tender scandal which involves the Minister of Health.

A tender worth R150 million was awarded by the Department of Health to *Digital Vibes* with which the Minister allegedly has ties. *Digital Vibes* is also accused of inflating prices for communication work for the National Health Insurance and later for COVID-19 vaccines, which the Department of Health could have undertaken itself as it has the expertise. This is a clear indication that once again Government opted to outsource services amidst the deepening economic crisis that it finds themselves in. These funds could have been used to pay health workers a token of appreciation whilst being at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic or to procure more vaccines to speed up the pace of inoculations and protect the country's citizens. The PSA is shocked that during such a stressful time in South Africa the Minister deemed it fit to get involved in such transactions. He should have known better and should have led by example.

The PSA was further informed that other employees of the Department are allegedly implicated in this scandal. The PSA cautions the Minister against any action that will amount to victimisation or blame shifting to exonerate himself. The PSA condemns any corruption or malpractice in Government and calls for stringent measures to ensure good corporate governance. The PSA advises the Minister to do the honourable thing and step aside until the investigation has been finalised.

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