

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>PSA welcomes precautionary suspension of Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's Director-General</b>
<b>DATE</b>	30 July 2020
<b>EMBARGO</b>	None
<b>ENQUIRIES</b>	Reuben Maleka 082 903 6808

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), which represents the majority of employees as the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, welcomed the decision by Minister Patricia De Lille to suspend the Department's Director-General, Advocate Sam Vukela, with immediate effect.

Adv Vukela's suspension comes after investigation reports alleges that he was responsible for massive over expenditure on state funerals for high-profile persons, including Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. The reports further revealed that he was also responsible for several irregular appointments of senior managers in the Department.

The PSA welcomes the fact that Adv Vukela will now account for his alleged conduct before a disciplinary enquiry. Senior officials are expected to maintain a high level of integrity and display ethical leadership to curb the misuse of public funds. As a result of, amongst others, wide-spread corruption and mismanagement of public monies, the state is now pleading poverty and is unable to pay public servants the salary increases that were due to them.

Whilst the state is quick to act against lower level public servants involved in minor misdemeanours, appropriate action against senior officials involved in corruption seems to receive less urgent attention. The PSA urges the President and Ministers to take a tough stance against such misconducts and recoup all the monies. The public purse must be safe guarded and anti-corruption measures must be enforced to support the country's economic recovery and restore international trust.

The PSA will continue to advocate for zero-tolerance for corruption in the Public Service and encourages public servants to report any form of corruption and mismanagement through the anti-corruption hotline.

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