

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes release of <i>Protected Disclosure Bill 2026</i> by Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development
DATE	14 April 2026
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 245 000 public-sector employees, welcomes the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development's release of the *Protected Disclosure Bill 2026* as an important step towards protecting workers who expose wrongdoing.

The adoption of the *Bill* will significantly strengthen transparency, accountability, the rule of law, reinforces democratic values, and ensures that institutions remain answerable to citizens. Whistleblowers play a vital role in safeguarding democracy, accountability, and transparency. For too long, people who have spoken out against corruption, maladministration, and abuse of power have faced intimidation, victimisation, and even violence. This *Bill* is a critical step towards ensuring that those who act in the public interest are afforded the protection they deserve.

The PSA further supports the introduction of incentives for whistleblowers who make protected disclosures in the interest of South Africa and the economy. Public servants who are vulnerable and often victims of must not be excluded as proposed and they should be supported through appropriate financial rewards for taking such a bold, and often risky, stance against wrongdoing. Recognising whistleblowers through structured incentive mechanisms will promote a culture of accountability and reinforce the value of ethical conduct in the public service. Such measures will serve as a powerful tool in combating corruption and strengthening institutional integrity.

The PSA noted the Minister's commitment to strengthening legal safeguards. Legislation alone is, however, not enough. Effective implementation of the witness protection program to protect witnesses in criminal and public interest cases, ensuring their safety and encouraging truthful testimony and provision of adequate resources for whistleblowers across all sectors are essential. The *Bill* must be facilitated with urgency and backed by strong enforcement mechanisms to ensure that protections written into law are felt in practice. The PSA will closely monitor the rollout of the *Bill* to ensure that promises translate into real protections.

The PSA calls on government, employers, and civil society to cooperate towards creating an environment where truth-tellers are celebrated, not punished. Protecting whistleblowers is about justice for individuals and defending the integrity of institutions and the rights of citizens.

Protecting whistleblowers is not only about safeguarding individuals but about defending democracy itself. By ensuring disclosures are taken seriously and acted upon, the *Bill* will help restore public trust in institutions and strengthen accountability across all sectors. The PSA will continue to advocate for robust safeguards, independent oversight, and meaningful consultation to ensure that the *Bill* delivers real change for workers and society at large.

END

