

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes resignation of Northern Cape Health MEC following allegations of irregularities: Calls for accountability
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the resignation of Northern Cape Health MEC, Mr Maruping Lekwene, following reports of serious allegations of financial irregularities, maladministration, and governance failures in the Department of Health.

The resignation comes after the release of the Health Ombudsman's report and findings by the Auditor-General, which revealed widespread mismanagement and failure to uphold proper financial controls. The PSA regards this resignation as a necessary step towards accountability, but it cannot mark the end of the process. Allegations of corruption and poor governance must be thoroughly investigated, and those responsible must face disciplinary and criminal action. Resignations should not serve as a shield from accountability.

The PSA calls on the Northern Cape Premier to initiate a full forensic investigation into all allegations of irregular expenditure and mismanagement in the Department, suspend implicated senior officials pending the outcome of investigations, and strengthen oversight and governance structures in the Department to prevent further misuse of public funds. Consideration should be given to placing the Department under administration to stabilise leadership and restore operational efficiency.

The PSA acknowledges the appointment of MEC, Mase Manopole, as acting Health MEC but urges the Provincial government to move quickly in implementing a credible recovery plan that focuses on rebuilding internal systems, protecting workers, and improving healthcare delivery.

Public health services in the Northern Cape have been severely compromised by poor management decisions, delayed procurement, and a lack of accountability. Communities and frontline health workers have borne the brunt of these failures. The PSA will continue to monitor developments and demand transparency, accountability, and justice for the people and workers of the Northern Cape.

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