MEDIA RELEASE	**PSA welcomes signing of Proclamation for SIU to investigate allegations of corruption at the Limpopo Provincial Department of Health**
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the President's decision to sign Proclamation R55 of 2022 authorising the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) to investigate allegations of corruption and maladministration by the Limpopo Provincial Department of Health. This is following a call by the PSA for both the Premier and the Health MEC to intervene, as corruption reached unacceptable levels, this was sadly ignored. Companies were given tenders without following procurement procedures and connected individuals enjoyed looting at the Department without any consequences. It must be said that the PSA is still waiting for the Premier to implement the recommendations of the SIU to institute disciplinary proceedings against the implicated officials and to also open criminal cases. Covid-19 was used as an excuse to steal leaving employees to work without appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, compromising the safety of the workers.

The Proclamation allows the SIU to investigate allegations of corruption and maladministration pertaining to the procurement of or contracting for waste management within the Province particularly removal, treatment, transportation, collection, and disposal of health care risk waste. The SIU will therefore not only focus on investigating the irregular contracts but also recover any financial losses suffered by the Department through civil litigation.

The SIU investigation will go as far back as 2010, to ensure that no stone is left unturned hence the PSA is still calling on the MEC to put the Head Oof Department and her crew on precautionary suspension to allow for an unhindered investigation. Whilst the PSA welcomes the decision for the SIU to investigate the Department, the PSA wants the Department to implement measures in place to avoid further waste of taxpayer's money. Government departments are already experiencing pressure due to staff shortages and dealing with corrupt officials has aggravated the problem and unless consequence management is implemented, corruption and abuse of power will not stop.

END