

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA welcomes State Investigators' efforts to root out corruption**

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**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                              communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), as the majority Union in the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), applauds efforts by State Investigators to root out corruption in the Public Service, particularly related to the COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) scandal.

South Africa is plagued by corruption that has a detrimental impact on the livelihoods of all citizens, and especially on how revenue is spent by Government. The PSA fully supports any efforts made by Investigators to address corruption, particularly where public funds are looted, and calls for expedited processes to urgently address all such activities.

The PSA's call follows the discovery by the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of corrupt activities in Government related to overpayments and escalated prices in the procurement of PPE. The PSA calls on the SIU to be transparent and publicly make known companies and directors found to have looted state funds meant to procure PPE. These individuals had no regard or respect for lives, and instead decided to enrich themselves at the expense of others. South African have a right to know the names of those involved.

The PSA further appeals to Government to enlist the assistance from experts in the private sector to render capacity to State Investigators with prosecutions. Corruption has paralysed the economy with Government even failing to implement the last leg of public servants' wage agreement because of widespread looting of State coffers. The loss of such funding has impacted on the financial stability of public servants and service delivery to vulnerable communities. The absence of bringing those responsible to book is deplorable and does not serve to deter ongoing self-enrichment. At the same time, Government continues to expect its employees to serve with integrity, ethics and observe and abide by the Senior Management Service Handbook and Code of Conduct for public servants without any rewards for their efforts.

The PSA appeals to the SIU to not only recover funds, but to also prosecute swiftly those involved in corruption to deter such conduct. The PSA also calls on Government to provide more capacity and funding to continue the battle against corruption to not cancel out the gains made to restore its tarnished image.

The PSA further encourages public servants and members of the public to report corruption through the anti-corruption hotline as part of concerted efforts to root out this scourge.

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