



MEDIA RELEASE

PSA welcomes suspension of multi-million Limpopo shack project

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decision by the Limpopo Government to suspend the construction of shacks, amounting to millions, in Apiesdoring and Burgersfort and calls for termination of the project.

The 152 shacks are similar to the ones erected for Talana hostel dwellers in Tzaneen, which would have cost government some R10 million. The cost of R65 789 per shack is preposterous and the decision to suspend the project is appropriate. The pricing is suspicious and reeks of being inflated. The investigation will determine whether there was corruption and maladministration. The alleviation of overcrowding in the informal sector during the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be used as an opportunity to loot from government. Despite the seriousness of overcrowding in some areas in Limpopo, it is not a solution to move people from shacks to other expensive shacks.

The PSA has noted that the suspension is pending the outcome of the investigation of the Talana shacks project but urges government to use this opportunity to explore cost-effective structures for the people of Limpopo. Viable alternatives should be considered to ensure value for money and dignity for residents.

The PSA also welcomes government's suspension of payment to the contractor of the Talana shacks to allow for the conclusion of the investigation. The PSA calls for the investigation report that is expected next week to be made public in the interest of transparency. The failure to embrace transparency has resulted in the entrenchment of corruption in the Limpopo government. In view of the well-documented history of a lack of accountability and consequence management, the PSA calls on the authorities to act decisively against the Limpopo government should it be found that there was foul play.

END