

**MEDIA RELEASE** SITA crisis: PSA questions motives and reasons

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**EMBARGO** None

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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) has raised serious concern about the reasons behind a capacity crisis at the State Information Technology Agency (SITA).

“The PSA as the Union representing the majority of SITA employees has noted with concern the comments made by the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs on 5 March 2019. The Committee indicated that it has ‘concerns around the capacity within the SITA in delivering quality information technology services to the state that enables quick and responsive services’. The PSA cannot but questions how government can cry about the lack of capacity at SITA whilst at the same time encouraging skilled public servants to leave the Public Service,” said PSA General Manager, Ivan Fredericks.

The PSA is on record stating that the state lacks capacity owing to a shortage of staff in many critical positions. “Most SITA employees are appointed on fixed-term contracts instead of being in permanent employment. This poses challenges for SITA and other state entities to retain critical skills for efficient and effective service delivery, as such employees often leave for permanent employment for more employment security in the private sector,” said Mr Fredericks.

The PSA is furthermore concerned that this system of contract employment is used to artificially create a crisis to give way for the need for tenders and opening the door for unscrupulous companies to conduct business for personal gain with the state. “The PSA calls upon the government to urgently capacitate SITA by appointing employees permanently and retaining skilled, experienced employees to ensure that SITA is able to function effectively and efficiently,” said Mr Fredericks.

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