

MEDIA RELEASE **Public Protector: PSA condemns purging of its shop stewards**

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is perturbed by the apparent purging of the Union’s shop stewards at the Office of the Public Protector (OPP).

One of the PSA’s shop stewards at the OPP, Mr Tebogo Kekana, was charged for violating the Public Protector’s Code of Conduct and Information Security Policy relating to the alleged disclosure of confidential information. Mr Kekana, a Senior Investigator, was found guilty by the Chairperson of a disciplinary hearing on 11 August 2020 on three charges relating to the disclosure of confidential information that occurred on three occasions in December 2017, June 2018 and November 2018. The finding is astonishing as none of the information that was shared by Mr Kekana was labelled in the correspondence as being classified.

During the hearing it was revealed that Mr Kekana shared information with colleagues at the OPP who are also members of the PSA. The information relates to maladministration and policy irregularities. Some of these matters had already been consulted by the PSA’s branch with the OPP’s management. The PSA was therefore astonished that Mr Kekana was suddenly charged and found guilty for the disclosure of “confidential” information. The PSA condemns this purging of its shop stewards at the Public Protector in the strongest terms.

The PSA is, however, not surprised by the decision of the disciplinary process as other members of the Union have been hauled before kangaroo courts concocted by the OPP in attempt prevent the PSA from continuing to expose maladministration by an institution that is mandated to protect the public against such abuse.

In 2019 the PSA exposed some of the maladministration, which led to the previous Chief Executive Officer leaving the OPP in December 2019. The PSA will therefore not succumb to any form of attack or the purging of its members. The Union will intensify its efforts to expose maladministration at the embattled OPP in to restore trust in the integrity of this vital institution.

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