

MEDIA RELEASE	Public Service corruption: PSA welcomes action against MEC and senior officials
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing more than 240 000 public servants, welcomes the decisive action taken against the MEC for Health in Gauteng, Bandile Masuku, and impending investigations against the Presidential Spokesperson, Ms Khusela Diko, for alleged irregularities related to the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE).

In the wake of reports of senior officials in North West and KwaZulu-Natal also being investigated on various counts of corruption relating to PPE and catering tenders, the PSA regards the widespread blatant looting of public funds to be a “pandemic” that is equally devastating as COVID-19. It is deplorable that some senior public officials entrusted with the responsibility to lead by example are opportunistically using the COVID-19 crisis to enrich themselves at the expense of suffering citizens.

This wide-spread corruption and mismanagement of public monies have contributed to the country’s financial woes with the state pleading poverty and being unable to pay public servants their salary increases that were agreed to in 2018 already. In addition, government has to revert to loans to fund its ever-increasing debt.

The PSA calls on the President and the Special Investigative Unit to act decisively and fast-track investigations. The fragile public purse must be safe guarded and anti-corruption measures must be enforced. Those involved in corruption, irrespective of their positions, must be made to account for their crimes and reimburse the state for monies lost. The PSA will continue to advocate for zero-tolerance of corruption in the Public Service and encourages public servants to report any form of corruption and mismanagement through the anti-corruption hotline.

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