

MEDIA RELEASE	The PSA calls on Limpopo Premier to demonstrate commitment to root out corruption
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	John Teffo 0795139856

The Public Servants Association (PSA), has cautiously welcomed the budget speech by the Premier of Limpopo, delivered over a month late, owing to COVID-19 pandemic. The hard work of the Premier is recognised, although the PSA believes that more can still be done, particularly around financial mismanagement, which affects service delivery and infrastructure development. The laidback approach by the Premier when it comes to allegations of corruption undermines his endeavour to promote good governance.

The PSA has previously warned the Premier, that failure to ensure consequence management will set a bad and dangerous precedence for his administration. There is a saying that, "*there is no smoke without fire*", however the administrations attitude is that someone must burn first before we can say that there is fire.

Although the Premier reported that they have eliminated the disclaimer, adverse audit opinions, and increased unqualified audit opinions, it is concerning that only two clean audits were received out of eleven provincial departments. The commitment to fight corruption is not evident in that there is no consequence management for reported irregular tenders, frivolous review processes instituted against employees, and collusion with suppliers leading to overpricing. Abuse of power, which results in unfair procurement processes and the appointment of unsuitable and unqualified suppliers and employees, is not receiving necessary attention although it compromises the spirit of good governance.

Greed and corruption restrict the provision of efficient service delivery, due to a lack of consequence management. There is water crisis in Limpopo, schools without proper toilets and scholar transport problems, whilst unscrupulous and unethical public officials are enriched out of corruption. The Premier is called upon to accelerate the pending investigations of alleged corrupt activities, like collusion with travelling agencies in his Office and at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The PSA further calls for investigations, regarding allegations of favouritism, abuse of power, fraud and nepotism in the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and Aeromedical service tender at the Department of Health, to be undertaken. These are a few examples, excluding the much-publicised rot at the province's municipalities, hence the call on the Premier to demonstrate his commitment to fight corruption and promote good governance. As they say, action speaks louder than words.

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