

<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	<b>DPSA not ready to implement lifestyle audits due shortage of staff</b>
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	Reuben Maleka 082 903 6808

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) previously called on the Government to capacitate the public service to ensure provision of quality service delivery to all South Africans. Sadly, government pushed for the reduction of employees with a view to cut costs while connected people were employed without qualifications, experience, and skills. The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) is experiencing staff shortages like most of the departments as government has decided to put the brakes on employment despite people resigning and retiring. The DPSA has recently also received new functions, including the implementation of lifestyle audits for more than a million public servants.

In the Western Cape alone, over 700 officials have been identified for further investigation which must be implemented by the Department that is already experiencing staff shortage. The PSA vigorously supports any method to fight corruption and maladministration hence the call for the implementation of lifestyle audits to include politicians and not only to focus on national and provincial departments. History has shown that state owned entities are the fertile grounds for corruption which must put the country in more debt through bailouts.

The government has resolved to implement lifestyle audits to only national and provincial departments although it was indicated that the intention was to conduct an audit throughout the entire public sector. The PSA is aware that the DPSA is already struggling to deal with the process due to staff shortages and this has also affected other departments who have also reported that that they have not completed lifestyle audits. If government is serious about eradication of corruption and wants to implement lifestyle audits, they must undertake this task correctly and ensure the correct government entity such as Auditor General and other departments are correctly resourced otherwise this exercise for scoring of political points without achieving anything. The Auditor General must be resourced adequately to efficiently implement these audits as part of its function to audit public institutions and advise DPSA on strategy to eradicate corruption in public service.

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