

MEDIA RELEASE	Independent Development Trust: PSA calls for accountability
DATE	07 February 2025
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) condemns the actions of the Independent Development Trust (IDT), an entity under the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, in its alleged involvement with corruption, mismanagement, and exploitation of public resources.

The ongoing investigation, which allegedly implicates high-ranking officials such as the Director-General of the National Department of Health, exposes a deeply entrenched culture of corruption that undermines public trust and the integrity of the procurement process. Allegations of a solicited bribe of R500 000 bribe from the contractor, *Base Major*, in respect of the R566 million Tambo Memorial Hospital refurbishment project, are a violation of public trust. It is unacceptable that persons in positions of power use their authority to enrich themselves at the expense of the people they are meant to serve. *Base Major's* appointment, despite multiple red flags, further highlights the systemic failure at the IDT. The fact that over R21 million has already been paid to this company, despite glaring signs of mismanagement, demonstrates a severe lack of accountability and oversight in the IDT's operations.

The PSA stands firm in its demand for a full and transparent investigation into these practices. The public sector must be a place where citizen's money is used for the public good and not squandered through bribery, corruption, and gross mismanagement. The PSA calls for the immediate removal of any person found to be involved in these unethical practices, along with strict measures to ensure that such corruption is rooted out from public institutions.

The PSA further demands that the National Prosecuting Authority acts with urgency in addressing these issues. The seven months of inaction is unacceptable, and justice must be served to restore the integrity of South Africa's public procurement processes. The PSA stands with employees and citizens who demand accountability, transparency, the fair use of public resources, and a government that serves citizens.

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