

MEDIA RELEASE	National Lotteries Commission: PSA calls for immediate intervention by Minister of Trade, Industry, and Competition
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) has noted in recent years that widespread reports of corruption at the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) have dominated the media.

The focus must, however, also be placed on NLC employees who have remained committed to upholding the integrity of the institution despite these challenges. These employees have worked tirelessly to rebuild and ensure the NLC fulfils its mandate to serve the public. Following the appointment of new management and a new board in 2022, employees hoped for a shift towards good governance and accountability. Unfortunately, instead of progress, the current administration has introduced an era of exploitation, discrimination, and victimisation. Service delivery has been compromised, whilst elite interests and consultants continue to benefit at the expense of the public. Under the leadership of the current Commissioner and board, working conditions have deteriorated. Long-serving employees have been marginalised, with the board labelling them as "spoiled and entitled". Despite being in office for three years, the new leadership has failed to establish proper governance structures, further eroding trust in the institution.

The PSA has submitted a memorandum to the Minister of Trade, Industry, and Competition, calling for immediate and decisive action to prevent a further decline of the NLC. A similar plea to the Minister's predecessor in 2018 was ignored, allowing corruption to flourish.

The PSA's memorandum highlights critical concerns, including, the collapse of the bargaining forum and the erosion of fair labour practices, unlawful treatment of employees, including forced integrity tests (lie-detector tests) and lifestyle audits, creating a hostile work environment. Mismanagement by an ineffective human capital management division is characterised by favouritism, nepotism, and discrimination. The board and management have failed to uphold their commitment to reparations and healing processes for employees and the public. The PSA also warned that the current leadership's actions are endangering service delivery owing to excessive bureaucratic red tape, favouring established applicants whilst neglecting vulnerable communities. The monopolisation of NLC systems under the guise of modernisation, where skills transfer to NLC employees is deliberately withheld, makes the NLC reliant on external consultants. There is a lack of accountability by the board and management, with a failure to implement promised governance reforms.

The PSA urges the Minister to act decisively to restore integrity at the NLC. Immediate intervention is needed to protect employees, safeguard service delivery, and ensure that the NLC fulfils its mandate to serve the most vulnerable in society. Failure to act now will deepen the crisis and risk further damaging public trust in the NLC. The PSA is committed to protecting the rights of employees and ensuring that the NLC operates in a transparent and ethical manner.

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