

MEDIA RELEASE PSA welcomes Limpopo Premier's stance on ending unbudgeted tenders with Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the Limpopo Premier's resolute stance on ending the awarding of unbudgeted and unwarranted tenders in the Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure.

This commitment promises to fulfil the Department's mandate to build and maintain vital infrastructure, which will ensure that the capacity of state is maintained. The tendency of relying on tenders, even for tasks that capable employees are employed to perform, has not only rendered workers redundant but has resulted in wasteful expenditure. Employees are paid whilst their work is done by service providers that are paid exorbitant amounts, promoting corruption.

Citizens of Limpopo face daily hazards, traveling on gravel roads, deteriorating tar roads, and navigating large potholes that cause vehicle damage and accidents. The Premier's directive for the Department to focus on maintaining and building roads, rather than appointing external contractors, aims to develop the skills and capacity of employees, ensure accountability, and prevent situations where contractors are paid without work being completed. This approach will benefit employees directly and foster a more efficient and reliable provincial road-infrastructure network, which is crucial for economic development and job creation.

The PSA has further identified 47 government-owned buildings that require maintenance and repairs to ensure compliance with health and safety standards. Infrastructure development and maintenance resort under the mandate of the Department. The PSA agrees with the Premier's emphasis on accountability and urges the Limpopo Provincial Administration to implement consequence management for officials who commit to projects without allocated budgets. Ensuring accountability is paramount to maintaining public trust and effective governance. The Limpopo Road Agency and the Department must rise to the challenge and serve citizens, with the understanding that the days of tenders are gradually ending.

The PSA further urges the Premier to ensure that these entities are capacitated by filling vacancies with the suitable employees in terms of the skills set as no department can execute a mandate without adequate and suitable human resources.

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