

**MEDIA RELEASE** : PSA applauds Minister's decisive action against SITA board unlawful actions

**DATE** : 15 January 2025

**EMBARGO** : None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) welcomes the decisive intervention by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies in reversing the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) board's unlawful attempt to prematurely remove SITA's acting Managing Director.

The PSA supports the Minister's firm stance in holding the SITA board accountable and reiterates the Union's call for continued oversight to prevent unlawful conduct. The Minister's actions are a critical reminder to all public institution leaders that governance must be exercised in the public interest, not for personal gain. The Minister upheld the principles of good governance and ensured that proper procedures are adhered to in the management of key public institutions.

The PSA previously raised severe concerns about the conduct of certain SITA board members, whose terms are set to expire at the end of January 2025. The board's attempt to remove the acting Managing Director was procedurally flawed and appeared to be a deliberate plan to disrupt critical disciplinary processes against senior executives implicated in corruption and gross misconduct.

The PSA commends the Minister for reinforcing accountability by stating that the board lacked the legal authority to appoint an acting Managing Director without ministerial approval, as stipulated in SITA's Memorandum of Incorporation. The swift nullification of the board's unlawful appointment of another incumbent has restored confidence in the governance of SITA and ensured the continued leadership of the current acting Managing Director who has been instrumental in implementing key reforms.

Whilst the immediate threat to governance has been averted, long-term measures are essential to protect SITA's integrity. The PSA therefore reiterates the Union's calls for full protection of disciplinary processes. Ongoing legal proceedings against executives implicated in the KwaZulu-Natal "State of Terror" Investigation Report must proceed without interference. The PSA insists that all implicated officials, including those accused of obstructing justice, must face the full extent of disciplinary action.

The PSA further calls for an independent investigation into the actions of the SITA board chairperson and any board members involved in unlawful conduct. Those found guilty of overstepping their mandate and compromising governance must face appropriate disciplinary and legal consequences.

In order to prevent future governance crises, the PSA urges the Minister to initiate comprehensive reforms in SITA's operational and governance structures, ensuring transparency, accountability, and adherence to established policies.

The PSA remains committed to safeguarding public institutions against corruption and maladministration. The Union is ready to take initiate legal and public advocacy actions if necessary to protect public servants and ensure ethical governance at SITA.

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