

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA calls for urgent action on corruption allegations at Department of Home Affairs
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) as the Union representing the majority of employees at the Department of Home Affairs (DHA), is extremely concerned about reports of corruption and bribery allegations involving a senior official.

It is alleged that the acting Chief Director of Employee Engagement solicited bribes from service providers responsible for chairing disciplinary hearings and prosecuting cases. Reports indicate that the official refused to sign and approve invoices unless bribes were paid in return. The PSA welcomes the fact that this matter has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs and the Public Service Commission for investigation and urges that swift action be taken.

The PSA has long expressed concerns regarding the outsourcing of disciplinary hearings to private legal practitioners. The Union previously lodged disputes related to the interpretation and application of PSCBC Resolution 1/2003, arguing that the use of external lawyers to chair and prosecute disciplinary hearings contravenes the Resolution and Public Service Regulations. The disciplinary code discourages the use of legal practitioners, except in complex cases. Despite this, the DHA continued to engage private lawyers at exorbitant costs, diverting state resources whilst disregarding its internal capacity to manage disciplinary matters. The PSA reiterates its call for the immediate disbandment of this arrangement to prevent further misuse of public funds.

Corruption remains one of the greatest threats to service delivery in South Africa. The PSA urges the Minister of Home Affairs and government to act decisively against corruption, which deprives citizens of essential resources and undermines the integrity of public administration. The PSA calls for a thorough investigation into these allegations and the implementation of stronger anti-corruption measures to ensure a professional and ethical public service.

The PSA further urges government to overhaul the current anti-corruption framework to strengthen accountability and ensure that those implicated in corruption face the full might of the law. The Union further encourages all public servants and members of the public to report corruption to the Anti-Corruption Hotline facilitated by the Public Service Commission. The PSA remains committed to protecting the rights of public servants and ensuring that the DHA upholds the principles of good governance, accountability, and service excellence.

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