

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA calls on Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to urgently repair IT system**

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), as the majority union at the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, calls on the Department to urgently repair its information technology (IT) system amidst reports that the Department's system has been hacked and that services have been affected.

The PSA received reports, which indicate that the Department's IT, which expired in January 2021, has not been extended or replaced. The system has not been working since 6 September 2021 and officials cannot access their emails to execute their duties. Services at courts are affected by the system interruption and the public is suffering as result of this oversight by the Department.

In the interim, the Department has instructed officials at the Master's Office to issue manual letters of appointment to persons needing access to the bank accounts of family members. This places officials in a compromised position as they are dealing with sensitive information. Members of the public, who for example want letters of authority to access bank funds for burials and other urgent matters are affected by the system failure.

The PSA calls on the Department to urgently address this matter with suppliers to ensure that the Department can render services to the public without compromising employees.

END