

MEDIA RELEASE **PSA condemns South African National Roads Agency Limited (Sanral) inefficiency**

DATE 18 October 2024

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) was shocked to learn that the South African Roads Agency Limited (Sanral) has some R42 billion in unspent grant money, despite the critical need to expand the South African road network.

Sanral is responsible for maintenance and expansion of the country's freeways and bridges. This infrastructure is critical for stimulating the economy as it facilitates the movement of goods and people. Sanral manages a road network of less than 25 000 km. Its mediocre performance has infuriated some, urging Sanral to spend grant money by expanding the road network to 35 000 km.

Despite being in possession of billions, Sanral hinted at inadequate budget to expand the road network. The failure to spend grant money over the period of five years without consequence management exposes Sanral's inefficiency and highlights government's inept oversight role. Failure to spend grant money attached to projects that are needed to ignite the country's economic activities and improve the living conditions of people borders on being criminal and should be addressed urgently.

Sanral's conduct in tender and procurement processes is well recorded after it incompetently awarded major infrastructure projects to disqualified Chinese firms. The Sanral board failed to ensure adequate consultation with construction-industry stakeholders when implementing a new procurement system last year, which requires firms to have a heightened BBBEE profile to win tenders. Sanral was subsequently taken to court, which led to the withdrawal of the new procurement system, reverting to the previous system, and cancelling advertised tenders.

Despite many of the country's roads being riddled by potholes owing to poor maintenance, Sanral's inefficiency continues. The PSA implores government to urgently put measures in place to ensure that Sanral achieves its mandate in support of reviving the economy.

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