



MEDIA RELEASE PSA demands immediate arrests in R6 million ghost-employee scandal at Mpumalanga Department of Education

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EMBARGO None

ENQUIRIES communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) is outraged by the discovery of over R6 million in fraudulent payments that were made to ghost employees at the Mpumalanga Department of Education.

According to a recent report by the Auditor-General, an alarming R6 408 775 was wrongfully paid to persons who are no longer employed by the Department, with some of them being deceased. This shocking misuse of public funds is a gross violation of financial accountability. Such financial misconduct is a blatant breach of the *Public Finance Management Act*, which dictates that officials uphold the highest standards of financial governance. The fact that these funds were disbursed without detection points to a collapse in internal controls in the Department. This is not an administrative error but deliberate corruption.

The PSA calls for the immediate arrest of those responsible, including any human-resources personnel and other officials who authorised these illegal payments. Their failure to perform their duties is a violation of the law and a betrayal of public trust.

At a time when Mpumalanga's education sector is facing severe challenges, including decaying infrastructure, educator shortages, and inadequate resources, this flagrant abuse of taxpayer money is utterly unacceptable. The PSA demands the recovery of these stolen funds and strong punitive action against those responsible. Anything less will signal a continued culture of impunity, which the PSA will not tolerate. The mismanagement of public resources must not be allowed to jeopardise the future of Mpumalanga's learners or erode the integrity of the public service. Failure to act swiftly will deepen public mistrust in government's ability to manage resources responsibly. Corruption must be eradicated, and those involved must face the full weight of the law.

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