

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes suspension of SASSA CEO and calls for prioritisation of good governance
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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) welcomes the decision by the Minister of Social Development to suspend the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), as this promotes justice and good governance.

The PSA has noted that the precautionary suspension is based on allegations surrounding the CEO's questionable appointment, as raised by the Office of the Public Protector. The PSA has consistently maintained that persons in senior public service management positions must uphold the highest standards of integrity and leadership. Senior managers whose actions undermine ethical governance must be held accountable. Those found to have engaged in misconduct or unethical practices must be appropriately dealt with to safeguard public institutions' credibility and efficiency.

Whilst the PSA acknowledges the rule of law, including the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, the CEO's precautionary suspension is regarded as a necessary step to ensure an unhindered investigation. The PSA respects the rights of the suspended CEO but urges swift and transparent handling of the matter to avoid prolonged uncertainty that could affect SASSA's critical mandate.

The PSA calls on the Minister of Social Development to prioritise restoring good governance at SASSA, an institution that serves as a lifeline for millions of vulnerable South Africans. The PSA also urges the Minister to take firm action against corruption, abuse of power, and inefficiencies. SASSA must implement robust systems and measures to prevent any recurrence of governance failures or unethical conduct.

The PSA has noted and welcomes the appointment of Mr Themba Matlou as acting CEO of SASSA. The PSA will offer support, within reasonable means, to ensure that SASSA remains operationally stable and continues delivering essential services. Clean, effective governance at SASSA is critical for upholding public trust and achieving the Agency's mission of combatting poverty and hunger in South Africa. The PSA will continue to advocate for ethical leadership, transparency, and accountability in SASSA and other public service institutions to ensure that citizens are served with professionalism and integrity.

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