

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes suspension of UIF Commissioner for alleged corruption and misuse of power
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), the majority union representing employees at the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL), welcomes the suspension of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) Commissioner for alleged acts of corruption and interference.

It is reported that the Commissioner has been put on precautionary suspension for his alleged role in the questionable agreement concluded between UIF and *Thuja Holdings*. The agreement was declared to be invalid. Government would have lost R5 billion meant for people who qualified for relief provided by the DEL through the UIF. The UIF is the component of the DEL that serves a critical role in providing relief to many unemployed people to assist them to look for jobs owing to illness and maternity confinement.

The UIF administers vast amounts of money contributed by South African workers. It is unacceptable that its senior employees collude with service providers to steal money meant for vulnerable citizens. The PSA has always held the public servants in management positions must maintain the highest level of integrity of leadership. The decision to suspend and institute disciplinary action against the UIF Commissioner is commended. It confirms that the DEL does not tolerate any acts of corruption and misconduct. Its action to eliminate corrupt elements and those who misuse their powers is commended. The *Code of Conduct in the Public Service* dispels any form of unacceptable behaviour. The public service is expected to be led by ethical and professional management. The DEL should implement measures and systems to prevent any form of corruption and abuse of power.

The PSA urges members of the public and employees to utilise the Anti-Corruption Hotline to report acts of misconduct corruption and abuse of power to maintain the image of the public service.

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