

MEDIA RELEASE **Public Protector's report on SASSA: PSA supports recommendations**

DATE 27 October 2021

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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) as representative Union of the majority of employees of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), has noted the Public Protector's investigation report on SASSA and supports the proposed remedial actions.

The proposed remedial actions by the Public Protector include, amongst others, that all supply chain management officials and all persons involved in bid committees should be given relevant training within 90 days. The PSA is of the view that such training will assist in building capacity and ensuring that procurement and tender processes are handled properly and efficiently. Undue delays and failures to award contracts to qualifying and competent service providers cause great harm to those who depend on the services, small and medium businesses, and ultimately the country's struggling economy.

The Public Protector has further recommended disciplinary action against SASSA employees who are implicated in the internal investigation report. Although the PSA supports consequence management where necessary, the Union believes that such action should not be selective or punitive and should be applied fairly with an intention to correct behaviour. The PSA has previously reported acts of irregular conduct by some SASSA executive managers and the SASSA CEO seemed reluctant to take appropriate action. Based on this historic experience, the PSA will condemn selective discipline that protects senior managers at the expense of other employees.

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