



**MEDIA RELEASE:** Road Accident Fund: PSA calls on Transport Minister to step in

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**EMBARGO:** None

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is increasingly concerned that the Road Accident Fund (RAF) has still not managed to rid itself of the notoriety of being a corrupt entity where corrupt employees and associates enrich themselves at the expense of poor and vulnerable people.

The Minister of Transport and the RAF's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) recently attempted to position the Fund as an organisation undergoing transformation with new solutions that will take the entity forward, although details remain unknown. It seems that the monthly fuel levy income of R3.5 billion was free for all, where some lawyers would receive as much as a monthly R100 million 'fixed allocation'. The PSA believes that the RAF is one of the entities that has turned into a self-enrichment scheme, where lawyers are colluding with corrupt employees to access these unlimited funds for their personal benefit.

The undertaking by the CEO that they are serious about turning around the entity is questionable as there is no tangible evidence, such as the prosecution of those involved in maladministration and corrupt activities. The CEO further alluded to the investigation that he had instituted, when it was claimed that lawyers close to him are prioritised in terms of payments, thus nullifying objectivity. The allegations of anonymous letters prove that there is something amiss at the entity. People are, however, scared to share information as it is known what happens to whistle-blowers in this country. Since the Minister's announcement that the RAF is investigating claims of fraud, corrupt individuals and activities in the RAF, the country is still waiting for the outcome.

There are, however, some positive movement as the CEO indicated that some matters have been referred for forensic confirmation as some court orders have been fraudulent in the past. Furthermore, the RAF committed in the spirit of transparency to release the list of the 20 top law firms that have been paid. This will be released every quarter, which the PSA believes will serve as a deterrent to those who have been unduly enriching themselves. It was, however, clear that big law firms were enjoying the chunk of the kitty and were prioritised in terms of payment, irrespective of the age of the debt.

The PSA calls upon the Minister of Transport to ensure that those who benefited unduly at the expense of the RAF are brought to the book as South Africans cannot continue to fund the luxury lives of criminals through an expensive fuel levy. The outcome of the investigation must be released urgently and those implicated brought to book if the RAF is serious about fighting corruption and restoring its credibility.

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