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## PSA urges suspension of IDT officials over oxygen plant tender

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has called for the immediate suspension of Independent Development Trust (IDT) officials implicated in alleged misconduct in the R800m oxygen plant tender, pending the outcome of investigations.

The PSA said it was outraged by revelations of alleged fraud and gross mismanagement in the R836m pressure swing ad-

sorption oxygen plant project, overseen by the IDT.

Public works and infrastructure minister Dean Macpherson released the findings of an independent forensic investigation on Tuesday. The investigation report recommended disciplinary action against IDT CEO Tebogo Malaka, GM for supply chain management Molebedi Sisi and other officials.

The union said the project

that aimed to install oxygen plants at 60 hospitals nationwide was seen as an opportunity for self-enrichment by greedy employees and service providers. "What began as a R216m initiative to install life-saving oxygen plants at South Africa's public hospitals has inexplicably ballooned to R836m. This staggering escalation, reportedly owing to irregular procurement processes and cost overruns, is a grave betrayal of

public trust and a direct threat to the integrity of South Africa's healthcare system."

The forensic investigation further revealed several companies were awarded contracts without having valid South African Health Products Regulatory Authority licences.

The PSA condemned the apparent disregard for due process and fiscal responsibility, particularly in a sector as critical as public health. — *TimesLive*