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## **DEMOCRATISED TRANSPORT LOGISTICS AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**3 September 2020**

### **DETAWU CALLS ON MINISTER NXESI TO DIG DEEPER INTO UIF OPERATIONS**

The Democratised Transport Logistics and Allied Workers Union (DETAWU) is calling for a wider probe into the operations of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) after its commissioner and management team were placed on suspension yesterday.

On Wednesday, Labour and Employment Minister Thulas Nxesi announced he had placed UIF Commissioner Teboho Maruping, along with the entire management team including the CFO and COO, on suspension following allegations of fraud and mismanagement of Covid-19 relief funds. Nxesi was briefing the media in response to Auditor General Kimi Makwetu's report, which unveiled widespread fraudulent activity with regard to the disbursement of the temporary employment relief funds (TERS).

DETAWU welcomes the suspension of Maruping and his team but suspects the graft uncovered by the auditor general is just the tip of the iceberg. As a result, the union which organises predominantly vulnerable workers in sectors such as contract Cleaning, Security and Road Freight, is calling on Minister Nxesi to extend the probe and look into the day to day operations of the UIF, where even more corruption could surface.

Now that the AG has kicked the lid off corruption at the unemployment fund, DETAWU urges the Minister to not waste time but seize the opportunity to reposition it.

For starters, Nxesi must rid the fund of graft completely by ensuring all those implicated are brought to book. Secondly, the minister must tackle administrative challenges at the entity and improve efficiency. For example, the time it takes for UIF to turnaround a claim is unreasonably long and frustrating, considering the claimants are already unemployed and desperate for money.

Lastly, the labour and employment minister must bulk up capacity by hiring staff capable of innovating a future-proof entity.

DETAWU calls on the relevant law enforcement agencies to investigate those implicated in corrupt activities and leave no stone unturned to ensure they face criminal charges.

**For more information or to arrange an interview contact:**

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