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## **Press release**

**11 November 2013**

### **APAC calls for tighter controls and monitoring in the public sector**

The Association of Public Accounts Committees (APAC) congratulates Minister Pravin Gordhan on the effective measures the National Treasury is putting in place to ensure that wastage and extravagance are curbed. APAC supports the changes as suggested by the National Treasury to the Treasury Regulations on the prohibition of the use of credit cards. This is indeed a step in the right direction. Furthermore, APAC appreciates the progress that the National Treasury has made in ensuring the blacklisting of all those officials who are doing remunerative work without permission and all those suppliers who have not honoured their contractual requirements in their dealings with the state. So far, 891 individuals and service providers have been blacklisted.

We wish to call upon on Public Accounts Committees and Municipal Public Accounts Committees to leave no stone unturned in their efforts to ensure the following:

- All officials that are found to be trading with the state are blacklisted.
- All suppliers that have not delivered on their contractual requirements are blacklisted.
- All consultants who have not honoured the requirements for skills transfer and delivery within the required time frames (as far as this relates to their self-imposed limitations) do not get repeat business from departments, municipalities and entities.
- All departments, municipalities and entities appearing before them have complied with the strict financial management measures as announced by Minister Gordhan in his medium-term budget policy statement (MTBPS) speech in Parliament on 23 October 2013.

APAC further wishes to express its support for the Public Administration Management Bill which seeks to develop a single, uniform system of public administration in the country. APAC believes that some of the major challenges the country is facing, especially in the local government sphere, are the result of not having common legislation governing service delivery to all citizens. While we are aware that such a single system will present some challenges, we strongly believe that it will benefit the country as a whole. Furthermore, we wish to urge the Ministry of Public Service and Administration to fast-track its processes to ensure that the bill that would make it illegal for public servants to do business with the state be promulgated by Parliament before the end of its term.

APAC is also planning a function at which the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Public Service and Administration will update APAC and other relevant stakeholders on these matters.

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