



the gpaa

Department:
Government Pensions Administration Agency
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement
11 August 2025

Your article titled ***“Ghost contract: Govt pensions body commits R1bn to fictitious building lease”*** (10 August 2025) and the “update” thereof published on 11 August 2025 refers.

News24 approached us on 28 and 30 July 2025 asking extensive questions regarding this matter. We categorically indicated that the questions raised were the subject of an audit process that was (and it is still) underway. Our view was that answering the specifics of the questions raised would have been pre-emptive and thus jeopardise the process. We further committed that as soon as these processes are completed, we would be able to share the outcome including any specific matters News24 raised.

As stated previously, we reiterate that our process to procure the services mentioned was fair, transparent and competitive. Your articles over the two days wrongly claim that the GPAA committed R1billion to fictitious building lease. While the GPAA is still committed to the investigation process and will rather not pre-empt its outcomes, we wish to strongly refute the falsehood about R1billion. This is not true even by your own calculations of what would have been an annual cost of the rental over the intended number of years. Secondly, it is not true that there was no signed offer to purchase agreement between the bidder and the owner of the building. The GPAA awarded the bidder based on them satisfying the requirement to either owning a building or in possession of a signed offer to purchase agreement. This practice is standard in the property industry. The allegation of R270 million paid for refurbishment is also factually incorrect and misleading.

Thus, words like “ghost”, “fictitious” etc. are simply intended to damage the individuals’ and entity’s reputation and we request refraining from publishing such wrong information. We still appeal for all stakeholders to allow the process to complete and as stated before, we will follow appropriate actions if the results point to any maladministration.

Issued by Government Pension Administration Agency

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