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## MEDIA STATEMENT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **RE: SITA OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL FRAUD AWARENESS WEEK WITH REGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN MBOMBELA AND CAPE TOWN**

- *SITA Engages Regional Teams in the Fight Against Fraud through Education and Awareness*

**Pretoria, 22 November 2024** – In alignment with International Fraud Awareness Week: 17 to 22 November, the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) concluded its series of events aimed at expanding its fraud prevention and awareness efforts.

The campaign, led by SITA's Governance, Risk, Compliance, and Integrity (GRCI) division, #ItStartsWithMe, was kickstarted at SITA regional offices in Mbombela on 19 November and included a Cape Town stint on 21 November, reinforcing SITA's commitment to fostering a culture of accountability and integrity.

International Fraud Awareness Week, is championed globally and is an opportunity for organisations worldwide to educate their stakeholders on the importance of recognising, reporting and ultimately preventing fraud.

On Friday, Mr Leonard Lekgetho: the Chief Operations Officer (COO) at the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) of South Africa, addressed SITA employees, presenting insights in the ongoing fight against fraud and corruption in the public sector, whilst assuring employees and stakeholders; that they can come forward and speak out against any perceived fraud or corruption. As the COO, he is heading the operations (investigations) at the SIU with experience spanning 25 years in this field.

SITA's Fraud Prevention and Awareness initiatives are important to remind employees to be vigilant and work towards improving SITA governance, policies and processes. This is in addition to reminding employees, SITA's partners and stakeholders that there are effective reporting systems and controls in place to enable everyone to contribute towards higher levels of ethical corporate organizations, intolerant and yet responsive to any incidents of fraud and corruption once they have been reported.

The statistics from the SITA Ethics Line 1 January 2024 to 15 November 2024, includes the disclosure from the categories, which relate to fraud, misconduct, unethical behaviour and corruption.

**Non-Executive Directors:**

Ms. M Mosidi (Chairperson), Prof. S Bvuma (Deputy Chairperson), Ms. Z Hill, Ms. O Ketsekile, Mr. L Keyise,  
Ms. N Pietersen, Mr K Pillay, Mr. R Ramabulana, Mr. M Ratshimbilani, Ms K Sibanda, Mr. W Vukela

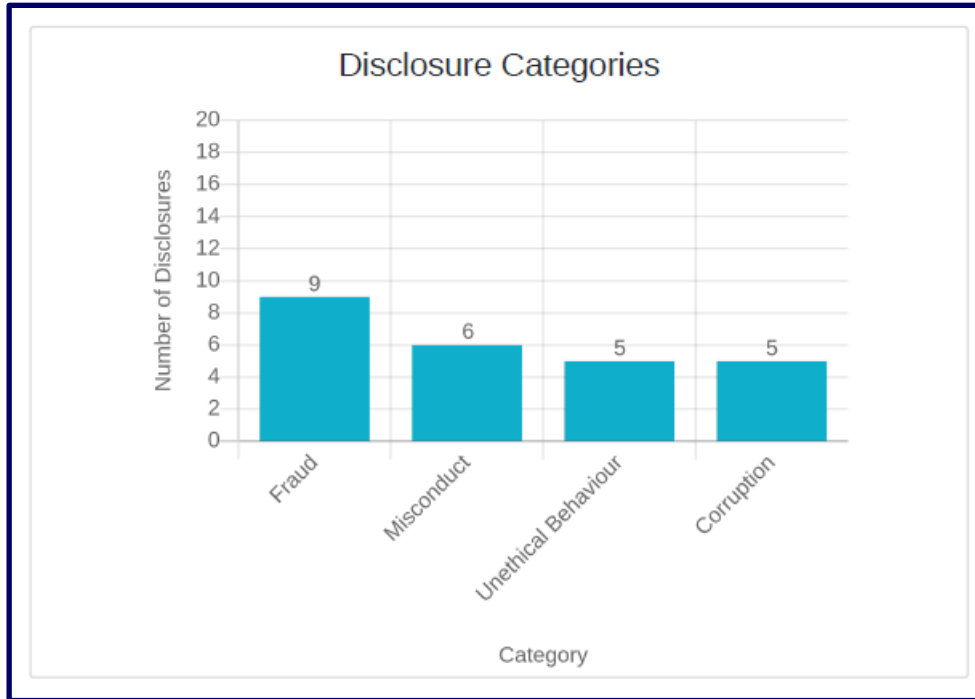
**Executive Directors:**

Mr. S Dzegwa (Managing Director Acting), Mr. MK Kgauwe (Chief Financial Officer)

**Company Secretary:**

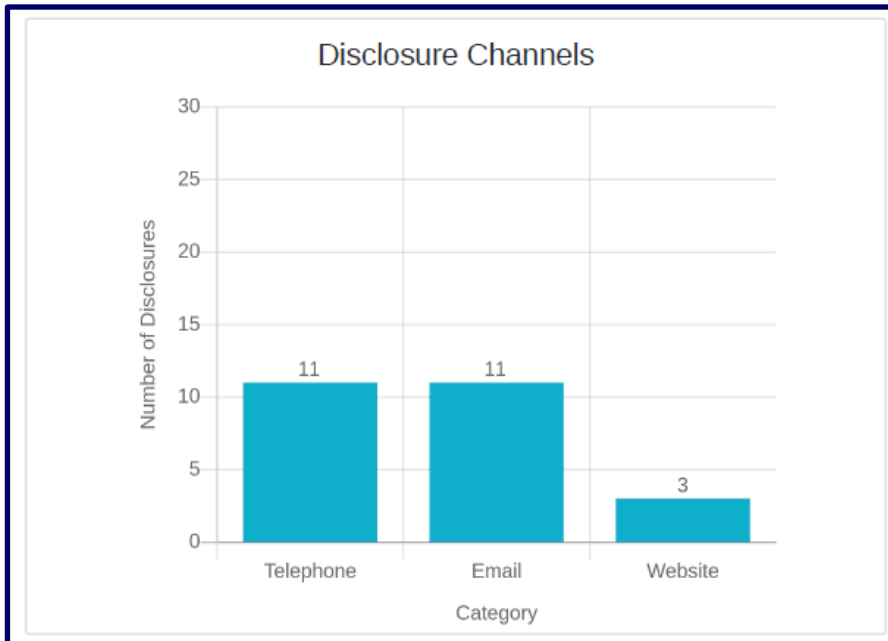
Ms. B Laka

**SITA ETHICS LINE**



**DISCLOSURE CHANNELS:**

The majority of suspected activities were reported telephonically through the SITA Ethics Line, by email and through the website.

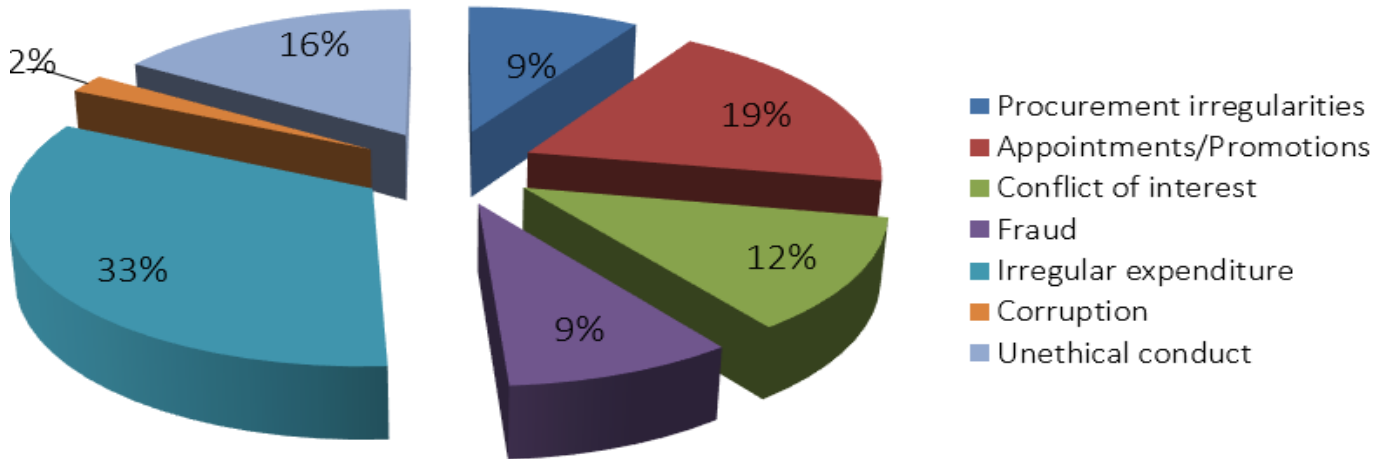


**CATEGORIES OF INVESTIGATION**

The categories of investigations for the fiscal year: FY2023/24, included areas related to

- 12% Conflict of Interest
- 19% Appointments / Promotions

- 9% Fraud
- 33% Irregular Expenditure
- 2% Corruption
- 16% Unethical Conduct
- 9% Procurement irregularities



SITA's regional activations will continue to encourage the reporting and prevention of fraud and corruption; and are designed to provide SITAzens (employees) with valuable insights and tools to recognise and prevent fraud, creating a proactive approach to ethical behaviour and risk mitigation. These sessions will highlight key strategies for identifying fraudulent activities and for protecting the organisation from potential risks.

In line with SITA's goal of creating a corrupt free organisation and create a stronger, organisation-wide commitment to ethics and integrity, this week is focusing on:

- Educating employees on the risks and indicators of fraud.
- Empowering staff to take preventive measures.
- Encouraging open discussions on the importance of ethical conduct and reporting any fraud concerns by calling SITA Fraud Line: 0800 111 180.

SITA's ongoing efforts in fraud prevention underscore the organisation's dedication to ethical operations and accountability.

SITA is committed to act against incidents of unethical behaviour, including fraud and corruption, at any level, without fear or favour – where possible, legal processes will be initiated or recommended (civil litigation and criminal prosecution) as part of consequence management. Where irregularities are identified, decisive action will be taken against those involved, including legal proceedings and systemic reforms to prevent future occurrences. The graph below represents the actions SITA has taken, in regard to information that was brought forward:

**STATUS OF INVESTIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN: 2022 - 2024**

Classification and status of cases	No.
Employee dismissed	3
Resignations	7
Final/written warning	7
Final written warning and one month without pay	1
Final written warning and loss recovered from employee	2
Recommended sanction of final/written warning	2
Disciplinary action in progress	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

SITA continues to remain committed to the following key actions:

1. Promoting Transparency: Regular audits, public reporting, and stakeholder engagements to keep South Africans informed.
2. Strengthening Internal Systems: Implementing robust mechanisms to detect and deter fraudulent activity.
3. Collaboration with Stakeholders: Partnering with public and private entities to share knowledge and best practices in combating fraud.
4. Building a Culture of Accountability: Empowering employees, contractors, and stakeholders to report unethical behaviour through secure whistleblowing channels.

“As an entity entrusted with delivering innovative IT solutions for the public sector, SITA acknowledges the responsibility it bears to uphold transparency and foster public trust. Fraud and corruption undermine the progress of nations and erode public confidence in government institutions.

As we commemorate International Fraud Awareness Week, SITA reaffirms its zero-tolerance stance on fraud and corruption,” said Simphiwe Dzungwa, Acting Managing Director at SITA. “Our focus is on rebuilding trust and ensuring that public resources are safeguarded for the benefit of all South Africans, with the support and commitment from our SITA Board.”

For media inquiries and further information, please contact:

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