Presentation by OUTA to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Technology

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OUTA's mandate:

- Challenging and taking action against maladministration and corruption
- Holding government to account
- Importance of compliance with legislation-
 - The Public Finance Management Act:
 - Transparency, Accountability, and Recourse by government
 - Skills Development Act:
 - Overview of SETA's role in South Africa
 - Advancement of learner skills and development



Why is OUTA here?

- Civil society's role in ensuring transparency watch dog needed in a space where accountability falls short. Revert to the judiciary because of state owned institutions' indifference towards transparency
- OUTA's PAIA application and withholding of information that is in the public interest
- Lack of proper oversight intervention is needed to ensure accountability

Tender Irregularities

Grayson Reed Consulting



- Awarding of tender for facilitation of stipends and management of BLAMS system
- Non-rendered or insufficient delivery of services:
 - Credibility of SSETA in the educational environment
 - Learners are affected by lack of service from service providers
- OUTA's findings on irregularities and accounts from whistle blowers on BLAMS and stipend receipts
- What has SSETA done to rectify non-delivery by service providers, specifically Grayson Reed?

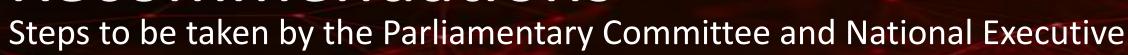
Tender Irregularities





- SSETA has a duty to recoup funds wasted on irregular tenders ito PFMA and ensure their mandate is adhered to
- Cancelling of service level agreement is <u>NOT</u> enough to ensure accountability
- Portfolio Committee should take note that the Skills Development Levy is <u>NOT</u> utilised for its intended purpose

Recommendations





- The Portfolio Committee should accordingly take the appropriate steps against SSETA to ensure that maladministration is halted indefinitely:
 - Administration in terms of the Skills Development Act
 - Probe into further allegations of maladministration and mismanagement
 - Consider OUTA's inputs in the appointment of future boards
- SSETA should be held equally accountable in instances where non-compliance with governing legislation and procurement policies are prevalent (i.e. CETA)



THANK YOU