

For Immediate Release
Media Statement

CHIETA Welcomes SIU Investigation dating back to 2016 and Reaffirms Commitment to Public Accountability

Johannesburg, 20 June 2025 — The Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) welcomes the recent presidential proclamation authorising the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to investigate specific historical matters relating to the organisation for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2020.

This investigation stems from a proactive initiative by CHIETA. It was CHIETA that requested the SIU to investigate certain officials in 2019.

In 2019, in alignment with our commitment to ethical governance and accountability, CHIETA commissioned an independent forensic investigation into concerns surrounding historical procurement processes. These included:

- Procurement of IT services dating back to 2019
- Internal audit services between 2016 and 2019

These matters are reflected in paragraph three of the schedule to the SIU proclamation.

Following the internal investigation, CHIETA formally referred the matter to the SIU in 2019 and, in 2021, opened a criminal case involving a former employee. The CHIETA Board further mandated the recovery of misappropriated funds linked to these findings.

This decisive action reflects CHIETA's values in practice — accountability, transparency, and respect for our public mandate. It demonstrates CHIETA's resolve in fighting fraud and corruption.

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Our strengthened governance systems have since been validated through clean audits, a 100% performance rating from the Auditor-General, and no incidents of fraud or irregular, fruitless, or wasteful expenditure reported since 2020.

We wish to assure our stakeholders and the public that the investigation does not involve CHIETA's current leadership or its ongoing programmes. Our operations — including the successful national rollout of Smart Skills Centres — remain unaffected and continue to advance our mission of inclusive, future-focused skills development.

Should the SIU have any other matters, we are confident that CHIETA will be notified in due course.

No further comment will be issued at this stage, in order to respect the legal process and ensure the integrity of the investigation.

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