



**Ministry of Human Settlements
and Public Works**

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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All Media

SIU TODAY RAIDED 4 KZN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICES

The Special Investigating Unit today visited 4 KZN Department of Public Works offices and seized documents. These offices are the EThekweni Regional Office, Ladysmith Regional Office, uMkhanyakude District Office and the Mkuze Depot.

A number of cases have been registered with SAPS and investigations are ongoing. This is just the start to the campaign of MEC Govender to root out fraud and corruption within her departments.

The KZN Department of Public Works can confirm that the President has issued a Proclamation mandating the Special Investigating Unit to investigate concerns in the Department (No R.43, 2010 – Government Gazette 27 August 2010 No 33506).

The details of the matters to be investigated are indicated in the excerpts from the Proclamation quoted below.

This investigation focus primarily on procurement within the Department – including the assessment of numerous leases negotiated by all four regions of KZN-DPW (including Head Office) for and on behalf of client departments, some of which involve significant amounts.

The investigation originates in a request from the KZN MEC of Public Works, Ms Maggie Govender that the SIU assist in addressing serious concerns she had regarding procurement processes in the Department. The SIU has started detailed investigations, and the MEC has instructed all staff to cooperate fully with the Unit.

The schedule in the Proclamation is as follows:

1. The procurement of and contracting for goods, works or services by or on behalf of the Department or other provincial departments or institutions for whose procurement the Department is responsible and payments made in relation thereto –
 - (a) in a manner that was not fair, equitable, transparent, competitive or cost-effective;
 - (b) in a manner that was contrary to applicable-
 - (i) legislation
 - (ii) manuals, guidelines, practice notes or instructions issued by the National Treasury or the applicable Provincial Treasury; or
 - (iii) manuals, codes, policies, procedures, instructions or practices of or applicable to the Department;

(c) which was conducted or facilitated by or through the intervention of officials or employees of the Department (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Department's personnel") with undeclared or unauthorized conflicts of interest; or

(d) which was conducted or facilitated by the manipulation of the Department's supply chain management or procurement processes –

(i) by contractors, suppliers or service providers of the Department (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Department's suppliers and service providers"), or

(ii) by, in collusion with or through the intervention of the Department's personnel,

to corruptly or unduly benefit themselves or others.

2. The performance of remunerative work by the Department's personnel in conflict with the conditions of their employment.

3. The receipt of any remuneration, allowances or rewards by the Department's personnel otherwise than in accordance with the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994).

4. Any undisclosed or unauthorized interests which the Department's personnel may have had in –

(a) contractors, suppliers or service providers bidding for work or doing business with the State, including the Department; or

(b) contracts awarded by the State, including the Department.

5. The premature or unjustified return by the Department of performance guarantees lodged by construction contractors

6. The unlawful or irregular conduct by the Department's personnel, the Department's suppliers and service providers or third parties relating to any one or more of the aforementioned allegations.

MEC Govender has gone on record as saying that Fraud and Corruption robs people of their right to essential services that government delivers. She urges staff and the community to report any suspected acts of fraud on the Fraud and Corruption Toll free line 0800 701 701 or send her an email via the Departmental website – www.kznworks.gov.za.

Released by
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