

Sanral 'wastes billions' - Scopa

The SA National Roads Agency Limited (Sanral) has taken "cognisance" of procurement deficiencies amounting to billions of rands that "may exist".

Parliament's standing committee on public accounts (Scopa) strongly criticised Sanral this week for "deliberately" wasting taxpayers' money through irregular and fruitless expenditure incurred through its projects.

Scopa said Sanral ignored National Treasury and the Public Finance Management Act which "resulted in their finances being in a bad state". It warned Sanral could cripple itself.

Outgoing board chair Roshan Morar said Sanral wished to "put on record that it remained 100% committed to operating within the legislative prescripts".

"Some of the irregular expenditure is a rollover from 2015, such as routine road maintenance (RRM) contracts - these contracts are in effect on all of its network.

"Contracts are a great incubator of small, medium and micro enterprises and in line with Sanral's policy of ensuring that a significant amount of work is awarded to them. RRM contracts are awarded for three years and renewable for two years."

For the financial year 2016-17, Sanral's irregular expenditure amounted to a whopping R10 billion. Another R15 million was attributed to fruitless expense. These are "huge amounts" which concerned Scopa "because taxpayers' money should not be wasted in such a manner".

Scopa was also concerned by unsolicited bids that bind Sanral to compensate suppliers if projects fail, such as the N1/N2 toll-gate which cost the entity R15 million. This amounts to wasteful and fruitless expenditure.

Sanral CEO Skhumbuzo Macozoma said the entity "recognised the problem of irregular, fruitless wasteful expenditure".

"As such, we have already embarked on interventions to improve compliance, strengthen the institution and prevent non-compliance in supply chain management processes." - ANA

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Pretoria News - 2/03/18 - Hawkes-Pow

Supra's offices raided

THE Hawks raided the office of North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo, the provincial government said.

"The Hawks had a search warrant for payments made to Nepo Data Dynamics. Last week documents relating to this company were illegally accessed and distributed on social media," said North West provincial government spokesperson Brian Setswambung. The company has a three-year contract to implement an IT and marketing transformation programme. "We welcome the search... to fight greed, crime and corruption." - African News Agency (ANA)

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Hawks raid NW premier's office

ELFAS TORERAI

PREMIER Supra Mahumapelo remained unfazed yesterday as the Hawks went through piles of files in his office, in a raid that attracted South African media to the town of Mahikeng. Mahumapelo said his North West administration remained unperturbed by swirling allegations of malfeasance and pledge undivided support to efforts by law enforcement agencies.

Mahumapelo, two MECs and the province's director-general, addressed a press conference in Mahikeng in the wake of the raid by the Hawks yesterday.

It also emerged that a document belonging to Nepo Data Dynamic, a company that has a business contract with the office of the premier, had been leaked to social media.

The company said its contract was legitimate. The company slammed the leaks as criminal and maintained that everything was above board.

Hawks officials swooped on supply

chain management units at the premier's office and the provincial finance, economy and enterprise development department.

Without giving much away, Hawks provincial spokesperson, Tlangelani Rikhotso, said: "This is a search and seizure operation necessary for our investigations. No further details can be shared at present."

North West Hawks head Maj-Gen Linda Mbana, also remained tight-lipped on the matter, but said the raid concerned allegations against the appointment of an IT company.

"The raid emanates from a whistleblower," Mbana said. "We can't say much but as the Hawks, we maintain that there is no place for fraud or corruption in our society and we are determined to fight it," she said.

"I'm not sure what the noise is all about," Mahumapelo said. "The provincial administration since taking over in 2014, has been up on this issue to fight greed, crime and corruption."

"It is not new that the legislature portfolio committee between February and March held the executive to account right across the country."

"There is nothing unique about North West," Mahumapelo said, and people should avoid sensationalising this issue.

"As for the operation by the Hawks, we pledge to give our support and there is no document they require that they will not find," he said.

Director-general Lydia Sebege said the company was contracted to do project management on behalf of the premier's office.

Contrary to reports that it had been paid R215m so far, Sebege said the amount paid was R205m.

DA provincial leader Joe McGluwa said the raid by the Hawks was welcome, adding that it was time for accountability for all those implicated in crime.

By midday, Hawks officials had not finished impounding documents at the Garona building.

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UNFAZED: Premier Supra Mahumapelo says his administration remains unperturbed by allegations of malfeasance. PICTURE: APHO BEUWANE

Hawks raid Supra's office

Amanda Watson

A surprise raid on North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo's offices may have netted a treasure trove of documents for the Hawks yesterday.

"After years of stealing from the people of the province, and a litany of charges and investigations, the wheels of justice are finally turning," said DA North West provincial leader Joe McGlulwa. "Mahumapelo must now face all the allegations against him and also account for his relationship with the Gupta family and involvement in state capture."

Calling the raid a "search and seizure" operation, Hawks spokesperson Captain Tlangelani Rikhotso said it was in relation to alleged maladministration, fraud and corruption at the head office of the provincial government.

"The monetary value involved is approximately R160 million," Rikhotso said. "Several documents which will assist in the ongoing probe were seized from different offices. No arrests were effected at this stage pending further investigation."

Mahumapelo said yesterday: "We welcome and support the initiative taken by the Hawks this morning, in relation to allegations of fraud and corruption within sections of Supply Chain Management in the office of the premier and department of finance," he said.

"It's a decision of the ANC; it is a resolution of the ANC, so where there are allegations, investigations must take place. That's why we are saying we will cooperate with the Hawks, they are not the only agency we are cooperating with."

Mahumapelo said he was working with the special investigating unit, public works, the Hawks over a R30 million payment to Gupta-linked healthcare company Mediosa, and had instituted forensic investigations into the departments of health, local government and human settlements, and all other departments, including some of the municipalities.

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Premier feels heat as Hawks raid

Once-powerful ANC leaders no longer immune

By **Motlomo Malefane**

North West premier Supra Mahumapelo is the latest member of the so-called premier league to find himself under scrutiny from the Hawks.

The premier's office was yesterday raided by the elite police investigations unit as it searched for documents relating to a corruption case that could implicate him and his office.

Since the beginning of the year, the Hawks have been cracking down on corruption within the state - taking on high-profile cases that involve senior ANC leaders.

Last month, they raided the offices of Free State premier, and now ANC secretary-general, Ace Magashule, looking for information relating to the controversial Estina dairy farm project which ended up benefiting former president Jacob Zuma's friends, the Guptas.

Both Mahumapelo and Magashule were close to the Guptas and used to be part of the "premier league" - a grouping of provincial premiers who were aligned to Zuma ahead of the ANC's elective conference in December.

The raid on Mahumapelo's offices came as pressure was mounting on another of Zuma's erstwhile backers, former water affairs minister Nomvula Mokonyane, with parliament's public accounts committee summoning her to appear before it.

Mokonyane, who was recently moved by President Cyril Ramaphosa to the communications portfolio, is accused of having "collapsed" the water affairs ministry during her tenure.

Themba Godi, who heads the parliamentary committee, has publicly said he did not understand why Ramaphosa kept Mokonyane in cabinet when there were allegations of maladministration and corruption levelled against her.

During yesterday's raid, the Hawks were seen leaving Mahumapelo's office and finance department with boxes of documents.



Members of the Hawks leaving with documents seized during the raid of the office of North West premier Supra Mahumapelo, *Inset* / TIRO RAMATLHATSE

Hawks spokeswoman Captain Tlangelani Rikhotso said several documents which would assist in the ongoing probe were seized from different offices.

She said the corruption allegations related to a contract given to an IT company Nepo Data Dynamics which was appointed by the office of the premier to procure services on behalf of government.

Yesterday Sowetan reported that eight employees at the finance department were subjected to a lie detector test on Monday for making public information on payments made to the IT company.

The company received over R200-million from government over a period of two months last year and operates from Mahumapelo's office.

Our debate will focus on theft and corrupt activities under his watch

This happens as the EFF has written to the speaker of the provincial legislature requesting that the house debate a motion of no confidence against Mahumapelo.

The EFF sent the letter to speaker Susan Dantjie yesterday and has requested that the motion be voted through a

secret ballot if it happens.

EFF leader in the province Betty Diale accused Mahumapelo of allowing theft at several departments, especially those under administration such as public works and health.

The departments under administration are managed from the premier's office.

Diale said Mahumapelo told the legislature last year that he was going to invite the Gupta family to do business with his government and indeed he achieved that.

"Our debate will focus on all the theft and corrupt activities that happened under his watch."

DA leader in that province Joe McGhuwa said Mahumapelo now needed to face all the allegations against him and also account for his relationship with the Gupta family and involvement in state capture.

McGhuwa said his party would support the EFF motion against Mahumapelo because the province under his leadership had become bankrupt financially, as well as politically.

He called for all the internal investigations of corruption that were done by the director-general in the office of Mahumapelo to stop and allow an external body like Hawks to take over.

"They cannot investigate themselves."

Diale and McGhuwa both believe that some ANC members of the legislature would support the removal of Mahumapelo.

"Some have asked uncomfortable questions involving the premier and his cronies," McGhuwa said.

"We call on these members who are unhappy with him to put their money where their mouth is," he said.

Last year there were several marches by a group under the banner Business Forum fighting Mahumapelo for alleged corruption and not awarding tenders to those who disagreed with him.

ANC secretary-general Ace Magashule. /MASI LOSI

