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DIRECTORATE: COMMUNICATION

Managers and suppliers instructed to cooperate with investigators...

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The department of Public Works and Roads has pleaded for all hands on deck to rally behind a forensic investigation by Open Water probing various procurement and financial related matters spanning over a period of three financial years.

Open Water, appointed by the provincial government last year, began perusing our books in December, but there no official word has been said yet about the progress they have made to date.

The focus of the investigation centres on tender and procurement processes of the department for the financial years: 2012-2013; 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

To date, a number of senior managers (Chief Directors and Directors) have been interviewed as the investigation begins to tighten its grip with on its mandate.

In a letter from the Office of the HoD, addressed to senior managers of the department and suppliers, all have been ``instructed to assist and provide'' Open Water with the necessary documentation required by the company to expedite its investigation.

The directive, according to Acting HoD, Freda Tsimane, was prompted by apparent lack of cooperation from the certain officials of the department and suppliers when approached by the investigating team.

``It has come to our attention in the recent past the certain suppliers and officials have refused access to certain documentation and information requested by Open Water...'' she said in the letter.

Tsimane explained the excuse for refusal by officials and suppliers to open door for Open Water, was that an official letter from the office of the Hood was first required, before information sought for purposes of an investigation could be provided.

The documents Open Water require from officials and suppliers include among others:

All tender related documents; all correspondence; project files; procurement files; contract files; payment files; Human Resource files and system generated reports which includes electronic payments Accounting System made through government Business BAS), supplies lists and contract information.

The letter is however silent on what action would be taken against officials and suppliers who choose not to give Open Waters access to information and documents they required

According to the directive from the provincial Treasury at time of Open Water's appointment, the department is expected to foot the bill for the all forensic work done by the company.

END

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