



Press Conference addressed by Matshube Mfoloe (Director: Communication) held today (Wed) to announce the sanction of suspended Chief Director for Roads, Mr Eddie Eddie, found guilty on eight of the 10 charges of gross misconduct..

Date: Wednesday, June 09, 2010

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

- Mr Eddie Thebe, the suspended Chief Director for Roads, has been fired.
- He has been informed about the decision as we speak.
- The decision to dismiss, Mr Eddie Thebe, is informed by the recommendation in the 21-page report, submitted to us this past weekend, by the independent Chairperson of the disciplinary committee who presided over Mr Thebe's case.
- The sanction reads part: ``In the circumstances , it is my view that his personal circumstances, length of service with a clean disciplinary record, cumulatively taken against the nature of his job, and the nature and circumstances in which he committed these offences, do not afford him with sufficient mitigatory facts.
- `` As a result, I find that in the circumstances of this case, dismissal is an appropriate sanction."
- The sanction against Mr Thebe, is a culmination of a protracted disciplinary enquiry, which commenced in earnest on March 22, 2010 and was concluded on April 13, 2010.
- He was charged with gross misconduct, pleaded NOT guilty, but was subsequently found guilty on eight of the 10 charges he had to answer to.
- Mr Thebe was found to have grossly violated government procurement protocols, in the procurement of goods and services which included off-course, the awarding of multi-million rand road contracts to several road construction companies.
- The long list of charges- copies which are available in your Press Kits- were informed by the findings of the forensic investigation by Price WaterHouseCoopers.
- This reputable forensic firm was commissioned in August 2009, to do a forensic audit

into the Roads Directorate, which was headed by Mr Thebe.

- PriceWaterHouseCoopers were called in after Mr Thebe's directorate, spent its allocated roads budget of R525m, within three month, into the financial year which ended in April 2010.
- Furthermore, more than R1.5billion budgeted for the road CAPEX projects was discovered to have been committed, before the new administration took office in May 2009.

On the flip side:

- Disciplinary proceedings against our suspended Chief Financial Officer, Mr Kweku Odame-Takyi commenced on Monday this week.
- He is answering to 18 charges of gross misconduct, and I am informed he is defending.
- We expect the DC to conclude the enquiry before Friday this week.
- There is a legal, as well as procedural technicality, with regards to the case contemplated against Mr Nic van Staden, who was Head of Department at the time he was put on suspension in December 2009.
- Mr Van Staden's contract was not renewed when it expired in April
- Therefore, he is no longer an employee of government and proceeding with charges against him, is not only irrelevant and a waste of time but may be deemed illegal also.
- For that reason, the department has decided NOT to proceed with a disciplinary enquiry against a person who is currently not an employee of the department.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your time.

Ends

