

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

(Zero Tolerance Stance on Fraud and Corruption Conference held on 25/26 September 2007)

Yesterday we were all fortunate and truly blessed to have our **Minister** occasioning the Conference where she clearly managed to set the scene and tone for the Conference. She did so because she wanted all of us to understand that we have a bigger role to play than just embarking on a roller coast ride leading for some to a path of wrong doing obviously at a huge cost to the Tax Payer. The **Minister** further highlighted that corruptive/fraudulent behaviours will not be supported by decision makers even if you are as close as it can get to decision makers. But the **Minister** equally called upon all of us to look at best instruments or models allowing us to perform in ways that would make us proud as civil servants and cherish that for many years to come. Minister insisted on all of us ensuring we understand the obligation of being familiar with contents of the Code of Conduct. **The Deputy Minister** shared his understanding of the where he sees the Conference taking us, reiterating our collective desire to serve knowingly that, out there, people are waiting for our services and expecting this Government to positively contribute in their lives without us having our hands in the cookie jar. It need not summarize what the DG presented for fear of losing minutes from the time keeper but in a nut shell we are still obligated to ensure that that the Internal Audit Chief Directorate is well capacitated to help us as a Department to deal with areas that would expose us to

corruption and fraud. We are committed to the successful implementation of the Conference Resolutions. **Zanele** laid a religious foundation purely because she wanted all of us to understand that our upbringing, irrespective of religious beliefs, does form an integral part of how we operate and ensure we stay focused and within the confines of the law. **Zanele**, in her divine words, calls for us to have good intentions of forever promoting elements of hearty souls whose primary objective is to diligently serve as expected rather than promotion of unjustifiable self-enrichment. We need to understand that for every act we embark upon, if it is wrong, we will at some point in time be forced to account and each time any wrongdoing is committed it is important to understand that at that stage your defence mechanism is at its weakest and ill-informed accounting practices, scared individual will bear a reality of possible jail term on the part of wrongdoer and gauge that from a life of ill-gotten luxury no matter how long that took. She re-iterated her commitment, and that of the Internal Chief Directorate to be responsive, and proactive in dealing with challenges facing the Department. She equally drilled into our minds the fact that we are the biggest feeder of the External Auditing process; she had to say that in order to enlighten us of the importance of ensuring that when dealing with complex financial matters we act administratively correct and reap positive results all the way. Both DPSA and PSC shared with us prescriptive requirements including existing strategic documents that are in place for officials to read and implement in their day-to-day operations. First **Mr. Davids** alluded to work done by the PSC in ensuring compliance on the part of Departments and that all Managers are expected to have

in their Performance Agreements depicting Key Performance Areas on how individually and collectively a unit circumvents proneness to fraud and corruption. Soon thereafter **Advocate Tommy Prins** also shared with us the International Experiences interpreting the Foreign Relations Act and touching on areas where the Department is likely to be prone to risk or exposure when dealing with International Service Providers. He highlighted remedial actions to be followed but again sensitized the Department to ensure that it is well capacitated to handle issues of that magnitude. **Mr. Nols Du Plessis** shared the African experiences on how Governments confront fraud and corruption including use of the hotline by members of society and officials in combating the scourge of fraud and corruption. Our role in the African community was also explained, including outcomes of meetings and conferences held in various African countries. **Mr. Barnabas**, Southern Sudan Audit Chamber Audit General took us through the Sudanese model following latest constitutional developments in their country. We now understand how a spade or a spoon can be used towards self enrichment of classes of our society including subsequent remedial actions where a perpetrator could be forced to spit if it is proven that he or she swallowed gains through fraudulent or corrupt means. **Dr. Riak** touched on how the Southern Sudan Anti Corruption Commission collaborates with relevant bodies to create awareness and implemented efforts in reducing the extent condoned or tolerated corruption behaviours. She expressed the importance of promoting ethics and anti corruption education and ability to use state funds for purposes of good Government intent and nothing else. Even though **Mr. Andile Sangqu** praised

the Department's involvement with the Audit Committee, he was able to present to the Conference clear resolution points which we as a Department welcome hence some form of depiction in our Conference Resolutions. **Ruan Kitschoff** presented some of the salient features coming out of the Public Service Anti-Corruption Strategy (2002) including the five year plan and new policy objectives. He was clear that all public sector leaders are obligated to become ethics officers with the DG being the Chief Ethics Officer. He called upon all us to live within our means and to understand the repercussions usually felt by your family if and when it is found that you excel in corruptive or fraudulent activities. The Acting Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works Hon **Mcengwane** had to take us through applicable laws and indicate the imperativeness of understanding those whenever engaging in what is expected from Department. That Parliament will always watch how Departments handle fraud and corruption but welcomed the fact that the Department is determined to address identified shortcomings wherever those exist. The Auditor General, **Terence Nombembe** acknowledged how this Department has been able to address risky areas, work of the Internal Audit versus the External Audit but reiterated a need to improve on key areas which he asked that those mentioned issues be incorporated in the Conference Resolutions. **Jan Hoon** obviously having waited so long to speak had to present to us the state of our stance on zero tolerance on fraud and corruption in the Department. He shared with us the investigations, convictions, dismissals and the "how not to find yourself in the midst of wrong things" . Knowing Jan he had to

ensure that we understand how the “Naming and Shaming Concept” works particular after exhaustive administrative and legal processes. May be we need to explore the publication named and shamed individuals or Groups/Companies by also buying space in the media and state form of transgression, modus operandi, convictions so as to help others, especially the innocent, from following a wrong path and at least help reduce this vicious cyclical pattern. Peter Goss clearly giving our conference a new name i.e. Fraud, Error (with Management put to a test and expected to account as legislated) and Corruption was able to highlight recorded trends, fraudster profile including relationships with an entity, the types of fraud including a quick comment on this Department losing some of its Government buildings, how all of that has a negative impact on any organization if left unattended, He recommended best models of detection, reaction and recovery plan. I could sense a marketing exercise that we may need to continue using his services to ensure we implement a prevention programme that promotes ethics focusing particularly on employees and stakeholders. **Ntate Malinga** shared the Public Sector Procurement Fraud again deducing from legislative framework, policy, processes and systems. **Prof Danie Du Plessis** equally putting emphasis on how we implement related policies and processes is of paramount importance otherwise the Department would not be in a position to timely prevent procurement fraud. He outlined what the Department should do in limiting or eradicating procurement fraud.

SUMMARY

We came, we sat, and we managed to engage the incidental processes representing what a Zero Tolerance Stance on Fraud and Corruption Conference should resolve. Mandla Mabuza correctly summarized presentations made by our esteemed presenters but I wish to once again re-iterate what our Minister said:

The **Minister** further highlighted that corruptive/fraudulent behaviours will not be supported by decision makers even if you are as close as it can get to decision makers. But the **Minister** equally called upon all of us to look at best instruments or models allowing us to perform in ways that would make us proud as civil servants and cherish that for many years to come. Minister insisted on all of us ensuring we understand the obligation of being familiar with contents of the Code of Conduct and other relevant policy documents or strategies. We also thank the Deputy Minister for his part and positive contribution towards ensuring we are a Corruption free Department

Zanele thank you for laying a religious foundation purely because you wanted all of us to understand that our upbringing, irrespective of religious beliefs, forms an integral part on how we should operate, ensuring we stay focused and within the confines of applicable requirements. You called all of us to have good intentions of continuously promoting elements of hearty souls whose primary objective is to diligently serve as expected rather than promotion of unjustifiable self-enrichment. You equally drilled into our minds the fact

that we are the biggest feeder of the External Auditing process; further enlightening us of the importance of ensuring that when dealing with complex financial matters we act administratively correct and reap positive results all the way

Mr. Barnabas – We are happy that you were able to enlighten us regarding Auditing practices in Southern Sudan. We are equally thankful for sharing with us the alternative use of a spade or spoon by various classes of any organization and how that can lead to in the world of corruption or fraud. We know for fact that the Internal Audit endorses the forced spitting remedial action in instances of wrongful swallowing of that which does not belong to you

Dr. Riak thank you for the presentation **Dr. Riak** touched on how the Southern Sudan Anti Corruption Commission collaborates with relevant bodies to create awareness and implemented efforts in reducing the extent condoned or tolerated corruption behaviours. We noted your endeavours of promoting ethics and insistence on anti corruption education and clearly the fact that you greeted us in Setswana is highly appreciated.

We thank **Hon Acting Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Me Mcengwane** and the compliance issues and related sections of various pieces of legislation passed by Parliament.

In their absence we thank Mr. Davids – PSC Compliance issues and collaboration with the Department.

Advocate Tommy Prins – How should approach foreign relations and awareness on obligations captured in the Foreign Relations Act

Mr. Nols Du Plessis – DPSA strategies and policies including our commitments on the rest of the African Soil

Mr. Ruan Kitschoff – Public Service Anti – Corruption Strategy (2002)

Mr. Terence Nobembe the Auditor General – will not repeat the CFO's comments on the one area of qualification in the Auditors Report