

# Public works' fraud cases reports still sitting with police

SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI



**BOSS: Police commissioner Victoria Phiyega.** PICTURE: GALLO IMAGES

THE department of public works is waiting to get a progress report from the police on investigations against its officials charged with fraud.

Head of the strategic management unit in the department Mandisa Fatyela-Lindi told Parliament's portfolio committee yesterday that they had raised the issue of getting an update on fraud cases with police chief Riah Phiyega.

The department of public works laid criminal charges against its officials who were suspected of involvement in fraud.

Fatyela-Lindi said most of the irregularities were uncovered in the supply chain management system.

Those cases have been dealt by the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) and by the department and disciplinary steps were taken against officials implicated, she told the portfolio committee.

She said they had raised the issue of the cases investigated by the police with the national commissioner.

She said following the laying of charges against officials implicated they needed to get progress reports from the police.

Last year Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi said cases of wrongdoing had been uncovered in the department implicating a number of officials.

He had said the findings of the SIU had uncovered the depth of the level of corruption in the department.

He said a number of officials, includ-

ing senior managers and officials, were implicated in wrongdoing.

The department of public works has been under fire over the last few years due to its poor financial performance.

Several ministers and directors-general have left the department.

Nxesi is the latest minister to have been appointed to head the department and he has promised to get to the bottom of the problems in the department and deal with fraud and corruption.

Last year Nxesi fired chief financial officer Cathy Motsisi for failing to get clean audit reports for two consecutive years. Nxesi had also launched a probe into a private company for inflating prices for fixing houses of ministers and deputy ministers.

[siyabongam@thenewage.co.za](mailto:siyabongam@thenewage.co.za)



**PROGRESS REPORT: Minister Thulas Nxesi.** PICTURE: GALLO IMAGES