

gone through to the kitchen and had
was dead. "I tried to do CPR but I
he said.

Public service DG to head 'super directorate'

MARIANNE MERTEN

PUBLIC service and administration director-general Mashwahle Diphofa has been seconded to establish a "super directorate" of compliance and standards for civil servants.

An acting director-general is heading the department over the next three to six months, as Diphofa puts in place this office of compliance and standards to oversee all civil servants – including local government, which currently has its own dispensation, public service and administration ministerial spokesman Ndivhuwo Mabaya confirmed this week.

"We have no other official in the department to set up that office. It needs a director-general for him to be able to talk to other directors-general (in national and provincial departments and premiers' offices)," he added.

It is understood that following the finalisation of the compliance and standards office, Diphofa would decide whether to continue heading that office or to return as public service and administration direc-

tor-general. Diphofa's secondment was publicly announced to staff in a notice dated March 27 from Public Service and Administration Minister Lindiwe Sisulu. Nhlakanipho Nkontwana was announced as acting director-general.

Sisulu said: "I have asked Diphofa to focus all his time and energy on establishing this office of compliance and standards. He has agreed to take on this responsibility and we have agreed that this process should be finalised within the next three months."

The compliance and standards office was among the ministry's priorities, alongside fighting fraud and corruption, transformation and managing the performance of public servants, said Sisulu, adding it would monitor the performance of all public servants across the three spheres of government.

"It is our vision that the public service must take the lead in the improvement of the lives of our people and play a leading role in the implementation of the National Development Plan," the ministerial notice to staff said.

The move to establish the compliance and standards office follows Sisulu's plans to ban public servants from doing business with the government to fight corruption, a data-

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base of "blacklisted" civil servants dismissed from the government to prevent them being rehired elsewhere in the state service and the return of school inspectors.

It also comes against the backdrop of government pronouncements, in reference to the National Development Plan, for the need for an effective, efficient and accountable public service.

However, Sisulu is facing more immediate challenges, particularly with regards to directors-general, whose high turnover has been raised as a concern by public administration experts and the government.

Currently, public service and administration is involved in assisting to resolve disputes around water affairs director-general Maxwell Sirenya, who was put on special leave earlier this year, and communications director-general Rosey Sekese, who has been on special leave since late 2012.

Water affairs had been without a director-general for about two and a half years after the previous incumbent, Pam Yako, was dismissed following a disciplinary hearing in 2011 for involvement in tender rigging. And the communications department in 2010 was at the centre of a bruising fight between then

minister Sipiwe Nyanda and his director-general, Mamodupi Mohlala, which at one stage triggered Zuma's intervention. After a settlement deal, Mohlala left in July 2010 to head the national consumer commission, where her term was not renewed.

At public works its first permanent director-general in almost two years was appointed in December 2012. Former director-general Siviwe Dongwana was suspended amid the controversial R1.7 billion police head office leases, followed by the acting director-general, Sam Vukela, who was put on special leave in the second half of 2011 following the discovery of R3bn worth of tender irregularities. Public works reached a settlement with Dongwana.

Meanwhile, the presidency this week indicated that the appointment of a permanent head of the National Prosecuting Authority was still receiving attention, as is the position at the helm of the Special Investigating Unit.

The top intelligence posts also remain vacant.