

R400m tender fraud uncovered

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THE Special Investigations Unit has managed, through its probes, to get up to R400-million worth of dodgy tenders set aside.

Presenting the unit's strategic plan to Parliament's committee on justice and constitutional development yesterday, acting head of the SIU Nomvula Mokhatle said they had set a target of R400-million worth of procurement fraud that had to be red-flagged and had subsequently met this target.

According to the report, the unit, which has received a budget of R532-million, also wants to unearth R1-billion in unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure resulting from conflict of interests and financial misconduct in the public service.

Acting projects director Paul Modiba also told the committee that it would present 20 investigative reports to President Jacob Zuma at the end of this month and a further 16 at the end of May.

The reports included investigations into corruption at the SABC as well as maladministration and tender irregularities in Oudtshoorn, Swellendam and George.

The details of the various investigations were not included in the report, which prompted DA MP Debbie Schafer to comment that it was "fluffy".

Among the probes currently under way are investigations into the R206-million security upgrade of Zuma's Nkandla home as well as abuse of funds by officials at the Department of Public Works, including, but not limited to, the billion-rand leases for the police's Pretoria offices.
