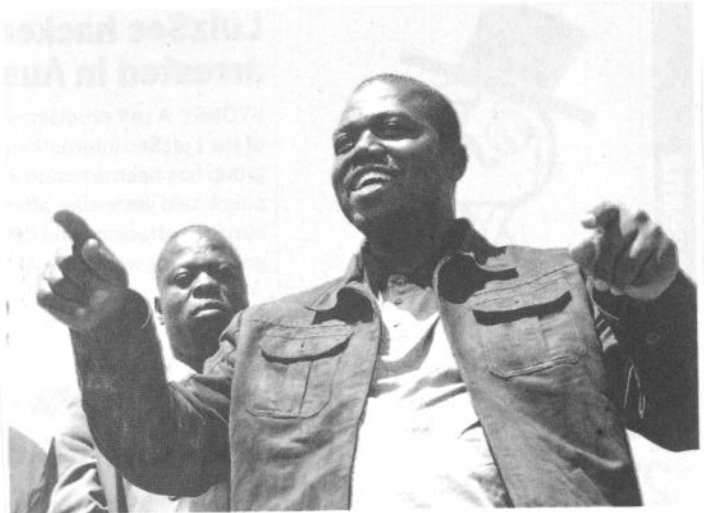


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WELCOME DECISION: Scopa-chairperson Themba Godi says he looks forward to the SIU nailing corrupt officials. PICTURE: THAPELO MOREBUDI

Probe into tender allocation culprits

SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI

THE Special Investigating Unit (SIU) has promised it will start probing cases of government officials who have violated the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) in the allocation of tenders.

Acting head of the projects division of the SIU Paul Modipa told Parliament's justice committee yesterday that they had realised that the PFMA gave them an instrument to investigate cases relating to the flouting of the PFMA.

"We will start moving into that area. We will first see cases of the violation of the PFMA," he said.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) said it was pleased that the SIU would start dealing with these cases. Scopa has for a number of years been complaining that no action has been taken against officials who breach the PFMA despite recommendations from it and the auditor-general (AG).

Chairperson of Scopa Themba

Godi said he was looking forward to the SIU nailing officials who breached the PFMA in the allocation of tenders amounting to millions of rands.

"This is music to my ears. Nothing has been more frustrating than Scopa and the AG bringing information, but no action being taken (against corrupt officials).

"There have been countless cases that have come before Scopa involving officials who violated the law but nothing happened to them."

Godi said the picture did not look good in terms of government employees who breached the PFMA and got away with it.

"It's a picture that keeps you awake at night," he said. And he said that this is a tip of the iceberg.

"We want to see a situation where there is a review of all the contracts where there have been irregularities. The thing that horrifies us is that the AG is only taking a sample," the leader of the African People's Convention said.

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