

Lockout of police resolved

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THE Department of Public Works says an issue over a lease agreement that led to police officers being locked out of their workplace in Empangeni has been resolved.

It was reported on Monday that about 40 officers from the Complaints Investigation Unit (CIU) had been locked out of their office in Empangeni.

Department of Public Works spokesperson Thami Mchunu yesterday confirmed the incident. “The non-payment was caused by a lease that expired in December 2016 and while the lease was being extended, the officials did not effect payment in order to avoid irregular expenditure.”

The issue was quickly sorted out and the payment made.

“The landlord was alerted and had opened the premises (yesterday).”

KwaZulu-Natal police spokesperson Lieutenant-Colonel Thulani Zwane said in response to The Mercury’s queries that they were not in a position to comment on the dispute which led to the members being locked out.

Lockouts came under scrutiny in 2012 after a building audit report highlighting similar problems was handed to Parliament at the time.

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