

## Auditor slams Public Works

● Rampant maladministration and shambolic accounting in the Department of Public Works has again been exposed by the auditor-general.

The department obtained an adverse audit opinion in 2016-2017 because of weaknesses in its property management trading entity.

The adverse finding is one of the worst in government. Auditor-general Kimi Makwetu said he was unable to obtain enough audit evidence on outstanding payable amounts.

He said the department's financial statements showed there was no adequate system to maintain records of accruals. Supply-chain failures had led to high levels of irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

"I am unable to confirm ... amounts by alternative means. Consequently, I was unable to determine whether any adjustment was necessary to the ... assets of R390-million included in payables and scheduled maintenance of R227-million included in payables from exchange transactions stated at R3.3-billion," Makwetu said.

Director-general Mziwonke Dlabantu laid the blame at the feet of "the challenging economic and the fiscal constraints ... nationally".

— BusinessLIVE