

Lifestyle audits against corruption

The premier's Sopa address put the provincial leader's names under the spotlight, making no bones about correcting the ills of the past

ELFAS TORERAI

ALL former and present political heads and senior officials at government entities in the province will be subjected to lifestyle audits in a new wave to defeat corruption.

The list comprises premiers, MECs, heads of departments, chief financial officers, chief executive members of state-owned entities, members of such boards, mayors and municipal managers.

Premier Supra Mahumapelo made the announcement in his state of the province address (Sopa) presented in Marikana on Friday.

The provincial forensic, ethics and integrity forum that comprises members from the Hawks, the police, the auditor general, legal, provincial treasury and the office of the premier is likely to lead the process.

He said while the province has already secured a presidential proclamation for the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to investigate allegations of corruption at the public works and roads department, there is a need to expeditiously get to the root of the vice that has impeded government's efforts to improve the lives of ordinary citizens.

"We welcome the emerging urgency to support the fight against greed, crime and corruption particularly in the public sector. In this context we urge former political heads of departments (MECs) and former heads of departments to make themselves available to assist with whatever information is required to speed up the investigation processes in those departments.

"For instance, there are many families across the province with incomplete RDP houses, slabs and foundations in their yard and no action has been taken against anyone in dealing with



WAR AGAINST GRAFT: Premier Supra Mahumapelo discusses his Sopa in Marikana on Friday. PICTURE: ELFAS TORERAI

this matter. All of us must agree that this is unacceptable and urgent action is required more than ever before. We therefore urge the former and current MECs Mohono, Maloyi, Doduvu and Maine of the department of local government and human settlements to fully cooperate with the investigations we

are commencing in this regard," Mahumapelo said.

He said the appeal for cooperation also goes to former Heads and CFOs to cooperate with investigations that are to commence with a special focus on these incomplete projects, structures, foundations and weaknesses in governance

and financial management. "We urge current and former MECs, Heads and CFOs to cooperate with investigations that are to commence with special focus on incomplete projects, structures, slabs, foundations and weaknesses in governance and financial management," he said.

At the public works and roads department, Mahumapelo said there had been an unacceptable phenomenon of incomplete projects and shoddy work, particularly in the construction of some government buildings and roads.

"We appeal to former MECs Mayisela, Raymond Elisha, Madoda Sambatha, Mahlakeng Mahlakeng and all other relevant officials, to assist and cooperate when the investigations and necessary actions are taken in this regard. This will also apply to all former and current officials," he said.

The troubled health department was also not spared.

"At health, matters which relate to security, ambulances, buildings, pharmaceuticals, hospital catering, medical waste and equipment, etcetera, require urgent intervention. It is our humble request that former and current MECs Rasemeni and Mayisela should corporate with us and law enforcement agencies to prosecute this matter," the premier said.

He also called on present and former leaders at the financial economy and enterprise development to avail themselves and answer on all matters related to historical procurement anomalies.

"In the department of culture, arts and traditional affairs, there have been many historical issues raised by forensic investigations and the auditor general in relation to infrastructure and procurement matters.

"To provide the necessary illumination and subsequent action in this regard, we would require the cooperation of current and former MECs C Chauke, Grace Botman, Ndleleni Duma and Tebogo Modise. Relevant officials in this regard will also be of assistance.

In the department of education and sports development, there have been serious challenges of pupils and teacher

support material, disbursements to schools and school governing bodies, and the building of schools etcetera.

"Former and current MECs, M Gaoretelelwe, P Tolo, the reverend OJ Tselapedi, W Matsemela and any other officials will be expected to come to the party," the premier said.

The same is expected for the rural environment and agricultural development and community safety and transport management departments.

"In the premiers office, we will expect the current and former premiers Molefe, Modise, Molewa and Modiselle to assist with the decisions and subsequent implementations relating to matters such as change of ownership of Sun City, project management units, information and communication technology-related matters and all other issues raised by the auditor-general with regard to such matters. Former and current director-generals and other relevant officials will be expected to cooperate in this regard," Mahumapelo said.

Municipalities and state owned entities were not spared either.

"At municipalities like Madibeng, Matlosana, JB Marks, Naledi, Mahikeng, Tswaing, Ramotshere, Ditsobotla, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema and others, we need to deal with all perennial allegations and financial irregularities identified through the forensics and auditor-general's report.

Former municipal managers such as Mapulane, Motsemme, Segapo, Mere and many others including CFOs and other directors will have to assist in the protracted task of unravelling these matters," the premier said.

Everyone who has served as a member of the provincial legislature is equally expected to account for travel claims.

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