

# Corrupt 'set to be charged'

**SIVIWE FEKETHA**

MINISTER in the Presidency Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma has hinted at possible criminal prosecution for those implicated in corruption in the troubled North West province.

Dlamini Zuma is leading an inter-ministerial task team set up by President Cyril Ramaphosa following a string of allegations of corruption and maladministration linked to embattled Premier Supra Mahumapelo and his cronies.

Following the task team's preliminary probe that followed an eruption of violent protests and calls for Mahumapelo's removal, Ramaphosa took control of the province through section 100 of the Constitution last week.

Yesterday, Dlamini Zuma said those implicated in criminal activities would be charged – as her team visited the province again to launch a probe into the state of governance in municipalities.

“While we are dealing with these governance issues, the JCPS (justice, crime prevention and security cluster) is also looking at issues that might need investigations like corruption.

“The JCPS is investigating anything and everything that is given to them to investigate.

“They are going to charge whoever needs to be charged if they find that somebody needs to be charged,” she added.

Mahumapelo remains on special leave after he reneged on an undertaking to resign last week and opted to appoint Finance MEC Wendy Nelson as acting premier.



**Minister in the Presidency, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and Deputy Minister Obed Bapela brief the media in Lichtenburg in the North West yesterday.**

PICTURE: JAIKUS MMUTLE/GCIS

Dlamini Zuma pointed out that governance problems in the province were serious, hence the decision to take over the administration.

Dlamini Zuma's 11-member task team includes the ministers of health, finance, co-operative governance, agriculture, public works, justice, defence, police and state security, including a technical team of all director-generals of the respective departments.

She said this week individual ministers would have to make individual assessments in their equivalent departments.

The provincial Health Department has already been taken over by Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi. The state of health care has deteriorated in the department, prompting the intervention of the SA National Defence Force.

Yesterday, public sector union Nehawu staged a national day of action in the province.

This saw a further shutdown of healthcare services, as healthcare workers called for a probe into corruption, improved working conditions and the firing of Mahumapelo and senior officials in the department, including HOD Thabo Leka-lakala.

Heavy police guarded the hundreds of marchers as they staged their strike throughout the day.

Nehawu's national leadership handed their memorandum of demands to Motsoaledi.

It included their demand for permanent absorption of community healthcare workers by next month, the termination of dodgy contracts, the filling of senior vacant posts and several wage demands.

Motsoaledi said those found in the wrong would face the music.

Dlamini Zuma said her task team was now setting its eyes on North West's 18 municipalities – 12 of which are under administration – to check if they had not also been affected by misgovernance, starting with two municipalities this week, including Mahikeng Municipality.

“That is why we spent the whole morning and half of the afternoon with the municipality here.

“Tomorrow we are visiting a different municipality and this will give us a dip stick assessment of where things are in the municipalities. We are with the deputy minister of Cogta and the minister of health. We are also going to meet stakeholders... like Salga, Sanco, Samwu, business and ratepayers associations to hear their perspective.”