

# Road agency accused of wasting R1,6 billion!

By PHUTI RALETJENA

ROAD Agency Limpopo incurred irregular expenditure amounting to about R1,6 billion.

Lack of accountability and monitoring at the parastatal, which falls under the department of public works, is seen as a major contributor to the mess.

The department is facing a massive backlog in roads in-

frastructure and bridges across the province.

The agency's CEO, Maselaganye Matji, allegedly allocated tenders worth more than R6 million to companies owned by his relatives.

He reportedly failed to advertise the tenders or declare any possible conflict of interest.

DA Limpopo leader Jacques Smalle said they are demanding a forensic audit investigation by the Auditor-General in order to get answers as to what is happening at the agency.

"Our request is in line with Section

29, which authorises the Auditor-General to carry out an appropriate investigation of any institution considered to be in the public interest upon receipt of a complaint," said Smalle.

He said some of the problems included failure by certain companies to submit original tax clearance certificates.

He added that supply chain management regulations were also not being followed.

"Tenders were being allocated without following the proper procedures and not notifying Treasury and the Auditor-General of variation."

"Surprisingly, the name of the company of the CEO's relative does not appear on the list of all companies and service providers that did business

with the agency. The names were submitted to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

"Among the irregular transactions on the list is that it does not divulge the name of the supplier."

Matji has denied the allegations, saying the irregular expenditures were incurred between the 2007 and 2014 financial years.

"It should be noted that these allegations were levelled against me by an aggrieved and disgruntled former employee," said Matji.

"The agency's board of directors are conducting the investigation.

"They will issue a statement once the investigation has been concluded," he said.

**The agency CEO Maselaganye Matji has denied the allegations against him.**

*Photo by Phuti Raletjena*