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**Vuk'uphile programme victim sing Public Protector's praises**

One of the hard-done-by emerging contractors involved in the Vuk'uphile programme has come out in praise of the Public Protector, Busisiwe Mkhwebane.

The owner and director of Paballo Tokelo Trading and Projects CC, Tsimane Phokompe, told OFM News that he and other 64 emerging black contractors went through a rough and volatile ordeal.

He says he lost his family during a tit for tat with the Department of Public Works in the North West following its decision to scrap the programme due to alleged financial budget constraints.

The programme catered for contractors from four different regions in the province, being Ngaka Modiri Molema, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, Bojanala and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati.

Phokompe, from Khuma in Klerksdorp, says he was informed by the director of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) towards the middle of June 2014 that the programme was being cancelled.

Phokompe says one contractor from the Bojanala region is said to have died two years ago after he allegedly suffered from heart condition illness.

He further says he wishes no contractor to endure what he went through.

"I feel very relieved and happy and I don't wish any contractor [to go] through what we went through. It was a very difficult four years. Most of all I would like to thank our Public Protector, Miss Busisiwe Mkhwebane. She really came through for us," says Tsimane.