

ordered a full report from the department. Indeed, I believe this is important enough to justify an independent forensic inquiry.

The second article, which implies that I fraudulently employed Cox Mokgoro in two posts in public works, allowing him to earn two salaries, is a very different matter. The article is based on a lie. Mr Mokgoro is not, and never has been, employed as a special adviser to any minister.

When I was appointed to public works at the end of 2011, reports from the National Treasury, the auditor-general and the public protector all pointed to mismanagement and lack of financial controls. The department had experienced eight consecutive years of negative audits.

Mr Mokgoro was seconded to the department in 2012 to lead our clean-audit project, which resulted in greatly improved audit outcomes from the auditor-general. He was later appointed CFO.

His contribution was recognised by my predecessor, who retained his services to head a special project to design a sustainable financial and operational model for the department's property management trading entity.

So he was never appointed as my special adviser. He never earned two incomes. This is a lie.

Thulas Nxesi, ANC MP and minister of public works

A tale of two reports

The reports, "Two jobs in one department for Nxesi's man" and "Ministers have a rich uncle – or aunt – in the furniture business" (both August 26) refer.

As the government we fully accept the importance of media scrutiny to hold politicians and officials to account. The article on procurement of furniture for ministers was in this tradition and I was shocked at the figures I read. I have already