

● **Health boss accused of interference in Coega work**

# New claim against top official in tender row

**Michael Kimberley**  
kimberleym@tisoblackstar.co.za

Uitenhage businessman Nceba Gomomo is the latest to come forward and accuse Eastern Cape health department infrastructure boss Mlamli Tuswa of interfering in Coega tenders.

Gomomo is embroiled in a five-year dispute with Coega over what he said was a R145m debt owed to him for work done and additional damages to his company due to nonpayment over the years.

His company, Maxima Global, was hired by Coega in May 2012 to access and manage the repairs of clinics and hospitals in the Amathole region.

The contract was extended by a further 10 months, only to be terminated by Coega shortly thereafter in July 2013.

In his arbitration document, Gomomo claimed that the contract had been terminated at the same time he refused to accept an instruction from Tuswa and two other Coega officials to hire Yakha Engineering.

The alleged instruction from Tuswa came after a previous contract to maintain boilers had expired in July 2013 with the public works department.

This resulted in the department of health requesting Coega to step in.

Work in relation to the expired contract had been previ-

ously done by Yakha Engineering. Tuswa did not comment on the allegations put to him.

“Why is it that [you] single out my name in the affidavit by Gomomo, whereas other official’s names from [Coega] are contained?”

“Why are [you] not asking the reasons why this matter went to arbitration and to date remains unresolved?” he said in a text message.

Coega said the nature of the contract was such that its offi-

**‘Why is it that [you] single out my name in the affidavit by Gomomo?’**

**Mlamli Tuswa**  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT INFRASTRUCTURE BOSS

cial’s were within their rights to advise Gomomo to appoint certain sub-contractors.

In the document, Gomomo claims that in July 2013, he was “instructed by Tuswa to appoint Yakha Engineering as the service provider to attend all work relating to boilers on the project”.

“The instruction was again repeated by Lamkelo Mdingi and Zuko Mqhatu, who are both officials of [Coega].

“Shortly thereafter, Gomomo was contacted by Monwabisi [Twatwa] who claimed to be representing Yakha Engi-

neering and was calling regarding the engagement of Yakha Engineering as per the so-called ‘mandate’ issued by the department of health and Coega,” the statement reads.

Twatwa, who is a personal friend of Tuswa, said he had never spoken to Gomomo about the tender and had resigned from Yakha Engineering as early as 2011 – two years before the alleged instruction.

In his statement, Gomomo said the instruction was unlawful, unreasonable and contrary to proper procurement process.

He said he opposed the instruction because his company was duly elected to do all the work.

In its responding papers, Coega said the termination of its contract with Gomomo had nothing to do with his refusal to appoint Yakha.

The agency said Gomomo’s company had failed to meet its obligations.

Coega spokesperson Ayan-da Vilakazi said the contract with Maxima Global had been cancelled for various reasons.

This included offering poor services, failure to pay sub-contractors after receiving money from the agency and incomplete invoices being submitted.

“A joint meeting was held between Coega, Maxima Global and the department of

**REPORT CONTINUES: P2**