

# Concern over provincial government top vacancies

## MAMELA NDAMASE and MPHUMZI ZUZILE

Three provincial government departments are operating without permanent heads of department.

Zukile Kani has been acting safety & liaison HoD following Ngaka Mosehana's resignation in February last year.

Mahlubandile Qwase has

been acting in the position at public works after the contract of advocate James Mlawu expired in June, while Leon Coetze has been acting at the department of rural development & agrarian reform after Lumkile Gada left at the end of September when his contract expired, said departmental spokesperson Mvusiwekhaya Sicwetsha.

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**Safety  
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SA Police  
Service**

Safety & liaison MEC Weziwe Tikana blamed premier Phumulo Masualle for her department not having an HoD because he had not authorised the filling of the post.

Tikana was responding to questions from DA MPL Bobby Stevenson last month, who asked whether there were any plans to fill the post which had been vacant for more than a

year. He said: "The Office of the Premier is responsible for the process of filling the posts for HoDs and the premier has not yet authorised [it]. The process can only commence upon approval from the premier and the date can therefore not be estimated."

Asked about when the posts would be filled, provincial government spokesperson Son-

wabo Mbananga said it was not clear. But Stevenson was concerned about the non-filling of the position for safety and liaison. "Safety needs a permanent head, the department will never operate at its best without a visionary head who will do oversight over the SA Police Service and hold them to account to ensure crime is being reduced," Stevenson said.