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Scopa: Public Works constantly under siege from corrupt employees

By
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Deputy Minister of Public Works, Jeremy Cronin, accused the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) of irregularities, following a meeting in Parliament on Tuesday.

Scopa Chair, Themba Godi, is not amused. He is particularly taken aback by threats of legal action being taken against Scopa, which has also been accused of deliberately tarnishing the name of Minister Thulas Nxesi.

“The Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) members reject with contempt the unprecedented and empty threats made by the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeremy Cronin, at today’s meeting,” said Godi on Tuesday.

“Scopa will not be threatened or hindered in its work by anyone and Scopa will not relent in its demand for transparency and accountability for public funds,” added Godi.

Central to this storm is the appointment of Cox Mokgoro to the department, a decision which is currently being interrogated by Scopa.

The Committee is also investigating the role played by Nxesi in that appointment.

“Certain individuals, including Mr Nxesi and Mr Mokgoro, must still account for the apparently irregular appointment of Mr Mokgoro and his company, Honey Cloud at Public Works; and Scopa will seek clarity from the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly on how the Public Service Commission (PSC) report should be regularised,” he said.

Godi made a point of warning Cronin that if it was a fight he wanted, a fight was what he would get.

“It is unprecedented that a member of the executive ‘place on record’ a threat to take Parliament to court for doing its work.

“This unprecedented threat can only be an attempt to cover up for the malfeasance committed. The Department of Public Works remains a department under siege from corrupt employees working in cahoots with external interests. Scopa will relentlessly pursue these crooks.”