

■ PARLIAMENT



Jeremy Cronin

Scopa MPs hit back at Cronin 'threats'

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PARLIAMENT'S watchdog on public accounts yesterday said it would not be "threatened or hindered in its work", in response to an apparent threat of legal action against MPs by Deputy Public Works Minister Jeremy Cronin.

In a statement, the standing committee on public accounts (Scopa) said Cronin has made "unprecedented and empty threats" against the committee, accusing it of tarnishing the image of Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi.

"It is unprecedented that a member of the executive 'place on record' a threat to take Parliament to court for doing its work. This can only be an attempt to cover up for the malfeasance committed," Scopa chairperson Themba Godi said.

"The Department of Public Works remains under siege from corrupt employees working in cahoots with external interests. Scopa will relentlessly pursue these crooks."

Nxesi has been criticised by Scopa for the seemingly irregular secondment of Boitumelo "Cox" Mokgoro as chief financial officer of the department from the Independent Development Trust through Honey Cloud Enterprises, of which Mokgoro is a sole director and employee.

A provisional report by the Public Service Commission to Scopa had found that the appointment was irregular and not done within the prescripts of the law. | African News Agency (ANA)