

Units ordered to vacate South Coast premises

Police top brass will have to find new offices for the SAPS Rescue, Tactical Response and Training Unit and the Vehicle Identification and Safeguarding Unit.

This follows an eviction order which was sanctioned by the Durban High last month that the units be evicted from their Marburg offices on the South Coast.

The court ruled in favour of the applicant, Silvermoon Investments.

The units, which serve the Umzimkhulu area, including Port Shepstone, have until the end of this month to vacate the building.

If the SAPS fails to do so, the court authorized the sheriff to evict them. The court also ordered the SAPS and the Minister of Public Works to pay the costs of the application.

Silvermoon Investments claimed it has been battling for over a year to have the

units removed from the premises.

Judge Mokgere Masipa said Silvermoon Investments had proved it owns the property.

She said lease agreement between the property owner, the SAPS and Department of Public Works ceased in December 2017.

The court found that there were conditions attached to a second lease which were not fulfilled and which rendered the contract void.

Therefore the property owner was within his rights to ask the police to vacate.

According to the judgment, there was an acrimonious relationship with the Department of Public Works.

Regarding the claim by the SAPS that the rent had been overpaid due to incorrect property size estimates and a counter-claim by the property owner that rent had not been paid, the judge said those issues were still pending and could not be decided by the court.