

# ‘Vacate or be evicted’

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**T**HE SAPS Rescue, Tactical Response and Training Unit, as well as its Vehicle Identification and Safeguarding Unit, have been ordered to vacate their Marburg offices as per a court order secured by the property owner, Silvermoon Investments.

The feud between Silvermoon Investments and SAPS has been ongoing since 2013, with claims of

occasions of failure to pay rent and an unsigned lease agreement being the main cause of the dispute.

In essence, the dissent was that the Public Works department claimed that rent had been overpaid due to incorrect property size estimates while a counter-claim by the property owner stated that rent had not been paid.

On December 31, 2018 the Durban High Court ruled that the company was within their rights to order the police unit, which serves

the entire Umzimkhulu area, including Port Shepstone, to vacate the premises as the conditions of their lease were not fulfilled.

The police and Public Works departments are also deemed liable for the legal fees of the case.

Police spokesperson Captain Nqobile Gwala confirmed that an order was issued by the Durban High Court and that it was received by the Vehicle Identification and Safeguarding Unit on December 31, 2018.

“The order stipulates that the unit must vacate the premises within 30 days, failing to do so, the sheriff will be ordered or directed to evict the Unit from the premises in Marburg, Port Shepstone,” said Gwala.

“The matter was referred to the Provincial Commissioner’s office and is receiving attention.

“The unit has been granted an extension to occupy the premises until 31 October 2019,” said Gwala.