

FROM PAGE 1

SIU state-graft tribunal appointed

departments involved act on its recommendations with regard to unlawful deals.

The SIU's annual report, released in October 2018, identifies "non-implementation of SIU remedial action" as the unit's single biggest strategic risk.

It is understood that certain departments have routinely failed to act on recommendations that they recover money allegedly illegally spent by government officials.

"There were a number of matters where potential recoveries were identified which we had hoped would be recovered during this financial year," the SIU said in its report.

The only person who can force those departments to comply with the SIU's recommendations is the president, as government ministers report to him.

It would now appear that Ramaphosa's new tribunal aims to deal with this type of resistance, and potentially puts state officials in line for huge civil claims against them in their personal capacity.

The SIU achieved multiple successes in 2018, including preventing the loss of R407m in dodgy transactions involving the SA Post Office and the departments of public works and correctional services.

It also had three state contracts, totalling R797m, declared invalid and set aside in the past financial year.

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Fighting graft: President Cyril Ramaphosa has established a special tribunal into corrupt or irregular state contracts. /GCIS