

■ GRIEVANCE

Row over alleged failed construction deal at Parliament

MTHUTHUZELI NTSEKU

mthuthuzeli.ntseku@inl.co.za

TWELVE construction enterprises in Cape Town are at odds with the Department of Public Works over an alleged failed contract.

A development programme deal had been awarded to Arcus Facilities Management Solutions (AFMS) in 2015 as part of the local Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) to provide integrated facilities management services in the parliamentary precinct.

According to the contract with

AFMS, the “first stage of the development will commence on October 1, 2015, for a period of 12 months and only successful companies during this period will proceed to the next stage of this development, provided they meet and achieve the evaluation criteria requirements”.

The contractors said the project never materialised. One of them, who wished to remain anonymous, said: “We signed contracts in 2015 to offer different services in Parliament. Since then we never worked, but only got called this year in January, four years after the project was initiated. On

numerous occasions we have tried to engage them (the department and AFMS) but they failed us every time.”

Fifteen contractors were initially selected, yet three asked to be excused following the delay on the projects as well as alleged threats from the department, they said.

The project, according to the contractors, was valued at R494 000 per company for 2015, increasing the following year according to the Construction Industry Development Board grading standards.

It would amount to R 3.5 million in the last year (2019), based on

the contractors’ financial and work capability.

Mzimkulu Gusha, the national EPWP chief director at the Department of Public Works, said the contractors had an agreement with AFMS, and not the department, and therefore should address their grievances with them.

According to Gusha, at a meeting between the contractors, AFMS and the department, a revised implementation plan had been presented, which he said the contractors agreed to and signed. The contractors denied doing so.

Arcus Facilities Management Solutions refused to comment.