Publication: Citizen (Gauteng)
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021

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Unit to probe tender fraud allegations

Citizen reporter

President Cyril Ramaphosa has authorised the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to probe allegations of corruption and maladministration in the affairs of the Kwa-Zulu-Natal department of transport and to recover any financial losses suffered by government.

The investigation will focus on the 10 August, 2018, procurement of, or contracting for, the construction of an eight kilometre concrete barrier wall between uMkanyakude and the Mozambique border and payments made in respect thereof, said SIU spokesperson Kaizer Kganyago.

The tender was awarded as a joint venture between ISF Construction and Shula Construction to the value of over R85 million.

Kganyago said the SIU received allegations from an unnamed whistleblower claiming that the transport department has executed the project despite the legal mandate resting with the

department of public works and infrastructure. The public works department is the custodian of border infrastructure outlay and the maintenance thereof.

"The investigation is aimed at determining whether the procurement and payments were done in a manner that was fair, competitive, transparent, equitable or cost-effective; or contrary to applicable legislation, guidelines issued by the National Treasury or the relevant provincial treasury."