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Services of company, R134m contract terminated

Following the revelation that an engineering company that failed to finish road projects in Brits and Rustenburg scored another R134 million contract, the North West Department of Public Works and Roads this week gave orders that the contract be terminated.

Ndhuna Civil Engineering Services failed to complete road projects in Brits and Rustenburg in 2021 after being paid over R20 million. A notice of termination was issued, citing 'poor workmanship'. However, it was awarded another R134 million contract in the North West.

The MEC for Public Works and Roads, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi this week directed the Head of Department (HOD), Moss Kgantsi to institute an internal investigation into the R314 million tender and to terminate the department's contract with Ndhuna Civil Engineering Services without delay.

MEC Molapisi confirmed receiving the investigation report and ordered an independent forensic investigation to be instituted as a matter of urgency. "The report indicates that the department has no record of any official termination of

contract in relation to the two abandoned projects but only a "notice of termination" was issued to the contractor. Moreover, the termination processes were never concluded. Equally, there was no process to register a complaint against the contractor," spokesperson Lerato Gambu said.

"It is an anomaly that a project is abandoned, nothing is said about it, and officials continue with business as usual. I demand accountability for this negligence and waste of taxpayers' money" Molapisi said.

"The HOD must appoint an independent forensic investigation in line with the terms of reference provided, and within a period of six weeks of appointment, the investigation should be concluded. The outcomes of the investigation will be made public and whatever remedial actions are recommended by the final report will be implemented, including consequence management recommendations."

He urged members of the public to report any allegations of possible malfeasance to relevant authorities, including law enforcement agencies.