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White property mogul investigated for fronting

MP opens cases
with police and PP

By **Mzilikazi wa Afrika**

Property mogul Jean Prieur du Plessis, whose company is raking in more than R40-million a month from government contracts, is under investigation for fraud and corruption following allegations of BEE fronting.

Du Plessis' associated companies got at least 81 government leasing contracts valued at R42-million per month allegedly as a result of BEE fronting.

Sunday World can reveal that police are investigating the East London-based businessman, known as "the government's landlord", after MKP member of parliament, Andile Mngxitama, laid criminal charges against him at Boksburg police station in Ekurhuleni.

Mngxitama accuses Du Plessis of BEE fronting and that he was awarded government contracts worth billions of rands on the premise that his companies were black-owned entities.

Mngxitama said he couldn't stand aside and watch Du Plessis using a "black face" to become a billionaire.

"I can confirm that I opened a case of fraud and corruption for contravention of the BBBEE legislation and policies against the owner of SKG Africa, Jean du Plessis," Mngxitama told



**MK Party MP
Andile Mngxitama
laid a criminal
charge against
Jean Prieur du
Plessis for BEE
fronting.** / Gallo
Images

Sunday World.

"In my complaint, we allege that Du Plessis uses a black woman for BEE fronting. He is using a loophole in the policy of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, which stipulates that an untransformed company may get condonation by showing that the buildings it will lease to the government are procured from a BBBEE-compliant entity," Mngxitama said.

He also confirmed that he has lodged a complaint with the Public Protector.

Sunday World has seen a letter from the police to the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in which they are asking to be provided with lease

agreements it has with Intacora Investments, one of Du Plessis' companies. Police also requested "decisions of the bid adjudication committee which set conditions for Jean du Plessis to produce a BBBEE certificate before he gets the tender". The department's spokesperson Lennox Mabaso, confirmed that it was cooperating with investigators.

"We are aware of a probe by the Public Protector. The Department received a letter from the Public Protector in this regard and the department is co-operating with them," he said.

Sunday World reported three weeks ago that a public works internal legal opinion concluded that SKG Africa, one of the Du

Plessis' companies, which was awarded a lion's share of government leasing, "is not black-woman owned" based on central supplier database records.

We also reported that the legal opinion also states that SKG Africa "is alleged to have two directors, Nontutuzelo Mbiza and Du Plessis. However, according to the central supplier database records dated 29 March 2023, the ownership of the company is set out differently in that SKG Africa is not 51% black-woman owned."

The legal opinion also added that "according to the BEE exempted micro-enterprise certificate submitted with bids, SKG Africa is 51% owned by a black woman.

This, however, does not correspond with the CSD report dated 29 March 2023.

Du Plessis denied the allegations levelled at him and told *Sunday World* that SKG Africa "is a transformed company".

"I confirm that SKG Africa is 51% black owned and I cannot disclose any further information as it is private and confidential," Du Plessis said.

Mbiza denied Du Plessis was using her for BEE fronting.

"I am not involved in fronting. I deny that I am being used by anyone," she said.

Mngxitama claims documents will show that Du Plessis offered to give Mbiza 51% of that company but she failed to meet his conditions.

Minister of Public Works Dean Macpherson has asked the Special Investigation Unit head advocate Andy Mothibi to motivate presidential proclamations to investigate allegations of mismanagement and irregular payments made concerning lease contracts entered with private landlords, including SKG Africa.

Macpherson's spokesperson, James de Villiers said on Friday that the department will cooperate with law enforcement agencies even though he said they weren't aware that a case of fraud was opened against Du Plessis.

De Villiers also claimed that the department wasn't aware of the letter the police investigators wrote the department.