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TAINTED TENDERS

# NPA called on to act against Jean du Plessis and SKG Africa

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LEGAL NGO Integrity Network has called on the National Prosecuting Authority and Public Protector to swiftly move on SKG Africa owner Jean du Plessis.

This follows complaints by various people including MK Party's Andile Mngxitama who accused Du Plessis of corrupting the Department of Public Works through questionable contracts that have benefited his company, SKG Africa.

Mngxitama had accused Du Plessis of using smaller black companies as fronts in his multimillion-rand empire.

Ernest Tsheane of Integrity Network has also called on the police to demand records of the alleged contracts and test if the PFMA was followed.

"We noted the comments of the minister of Monday on TV. We have also noted the response by Du Plessis' attorney in the media. Save to say that these accusations are deeply concerning and link Du Plessis to a web of corruption. Naturally, corruption has no colour and

we urge the organs to state, including the NPA and the Public Protector to swiftly act of the allegations.

"For our part, we will request a proclamation by President Cyril Ramaphosa into a comprehensive investigation by the SIU (Special Investigating Unit)."

Based in East London, Du Plessis is involved in various sectors including property development, information technology, property investment, and management services.

Former public works minister Sihle Zikalala has petitioned Public Works

Minister Dean Macpherson to investigate Du Plessis and SKG Africa.

"Minister, we saw you exposing corruption in your department; however, we wish to inform you that you have merely scratched the surface. The real corruption lies with one man, Jean du Plessis," Mngxitama said.

He asserts that Du Plessis controls SKG Africa in conjunction with many front firms, monopolising the DPWT's office space renting tender prospects.

Mngxitama has described Du Plessis as the "Markus Jooste of the DPWT",

referring to the disgraced former Steinhoff CEO.

Speaking to *Newzroom Afrika* on Monday, Macpherson said: "We have learnt of the allegations concerning the mentioned company, will investigate and take action."

"Regardless of who the person's name is we will take action."

However, in response to the ongoing allegations, SKG Africa, through their legal representatives, Sim Attorneys, labelled the accusations as "baseless", asserting that previous claims made by

Mngxitama are without merit.

Tsheane has, however, called for "any Du Plessis tender that is still in the pipeline" to be suspended.

"If it is true that Du Plessis benefits over 500 million a year from one single department using fraudulent BEE papers and utilises fronting as a way of business then prosecution should swiftly ensue. If a tender has been rejected seven times by the Bid Adjudication Committee, but is poised for potential approval for SKG Africa's sake, that tender would have to be suspended immediately," he said.