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Publish date: 17 Feb 2025
Page: 2

Reach: 10610
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Did the SAPS mislead Parliament?

IN THIS week's Portfolio Committee on Police, the SAPS was probed on its concerning audit outcomes, including several material irregularities.

When probed on debts owed to the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, as the implementing agency for project building, General Fannie (Masemola) claimed that the SAPS had no arrears to Public Works, despite conflicting figures from the department.

Upon confirmation with Minister (of Public Works and Infrastructure) Dean Macpherson, it emerged that the SAPS reportedly owes Public Works approximately R2 billion. This is while our officers work with dilapidated police stations, with ill-resourced detective services, and a crumbling Crime Intelligence Division.

We will submit parliamentary



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questions to the Minister of Police, Senzo Mchunu, to ascertain the truth. Misleading Parliament is a criminal offence, and Masemola's position will be untenable, if he is found to have deliberately not spoken the truth to a parliamentary committee.

Masemola was also under serious investigative probe in 2022, with no outcome apparently due to political interference by previous Minister of Police Bheki Cele. Additionally, Masemola signed off on all the technological infrastructure for the disastrous Telkom Towers – which never materialised.

We will raise the SAPS's continuing lack of accountability with Committee chair Ian Cameron. The SAPS must work, and the DA is committed to ensure it is equipped in keeping South Africans safe. The SAPS, however, needs to meet us halfway if we truly seek to stem violent crime.

DIANNE KOHLER BARNARD | DA
spokesperson on State Security