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OUR VIEWPOINT

SIU SHOULD BE COMMENDED

As much as it is within society's rights to highlight the government's poor service delivery, we also, as a society, have an obligation to give credit where it is due.

Given the negative impact of poor service delivery on citizens, the fact that some individuals end up adopting a negative attitude towards the entire government, its entities and institutions, is not unexpected.

For example, rural communities battling to access running water, electricity and health facilities should not be faulted if they were to reach the conclusion that nothing works in government.

However, the fact is that there are government departments, institutions and entities that are doing a sterling job.

One such government institution is the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), which in the past few

months has done amazing work in the push back against corruption.

Last year alone, the SIU recovered more than R8 billion siphoned from the state by corrupt government officials with the assistance of crooked service providers.

In *The Witness* yesterday was a story about the SIU having been able to secure assets worth R31 million from two former Eskom executives who have

been implicated in corruption.

Not so long ago, the SIU obtained a court order to seize assets worth R52 million belonging to 22 people, including senior Mpumalanga Public Works Department officials and service providers, after investigators uncovered widespread corruption within the department.

At the beginning of the month, *The Witness* reported that the SIU was able to obtain the green

light from President Cyril Ramaphosa to investigate corruption at the troubled KwaZulu-Natal provincial government-owned Ithala bank, as well as the Kokstad Municipality.

The SIU, which in recent months has also referred several government officials to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for prosecution, is indeed one of the government's star institutions when it comes to delivery.