

Publication: Witness - Main

Reach: 6180

Title: Forensic report recommends action against IDT CEO and top management

AVE:R 44125.29

Publish date: 30 Jul 2025

Author: CLIVE NDOU

Page: 2

Forensic report recommends action against IDT CEO and top management

KARAN BEEF TO RESUME SLAUGHTERING AFTER FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK

JYOTHI LALDAS

Karan Beef, one of the largest integrated beef producers in Africa, which also has a facility near Pietermaritzburg, has resumed slaughtering

CLIVE NDOU

A forensic investigation report into an R800 million tender awarded by the Independent Development Trust (IDT), which falls under the national Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, has recommended disciplinary action against the entity's top management.

However, the report could not link any of the IDT officials with the service providers, whom the forensic investigators found were appointed outside procurement regulations.

The Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Plant project at public hospitals was budgeted at R300 million but ballooned to R800 million.

The IDT was implementing the project

on behalf of the national Health Department.

Releasing the forensic report, which was compiled by global consultancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) yesterday, Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Dean Macpherson said that he was already acting on the report's recommendations.

"This will include writing to the Hawks and providing them with the report to supplement their current criminal investigation into this matter."

The forensic report recommended that disciplinary action should be taken against IDT CEO Tebogo Malaka and the IDT's general manager for supply chain management (SCM), Dr Molebedi Sisi.

"Most critically, CEO Tebogo Malaka

failed to exercise oversight, relying solely on internal SCM staff and ignoring red flags the Health Department raised.

"She did not verify documentation or convene necessary risk committees, instead endorsing flawed processes."

"The report also criticises Dr Sisi for misleading internal stakeholders," Macpherson said.

The forensic investigators found that service providers were appointed despite lacking South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (Sahpra) registration.

"One company, Bulkeng (Pty) Ltd, submitted a Sahpra licence belonging to Atlas Copco Industrial SA — without the knowledge or consent of Atlas Copco.

"This was a clear misrepresentation. It

was fraud," Macpherson said.

This, Macpherson said, could be due to the fact that there has been poor record-keeping around the meetings involving the oxygen tank project.

On the report not linking any IDT officials to the service providers, Macpherson said it could be due to poor record-keeping by those who were involved in the tender processes.

"The minutes of meetings, i.e. bid specification committee; bid evaluation committee; management bid adjudication committee; and executive bid adjudication committee, are very vague and contain limited information relating to the items that were discussed during these meetings.

"The submitted documents that were

presented further often contain incorrect and incomplete information, such as the correct dates of meetings," he said.

The Public Works and Infrastructure Department, Macpherson said, will not only use the report to hold those who were implicated to account, but also to strengthen the IDT.

"The director-general will be instructing the department to incorporate each of these recommendations into the broader SCM reform process under way across the department and its entities.

"We are not just reacting to this scandal — we are using it as an opportunity to get things right in our entities and department," he said.

• clive.ndou@witness.co.za