



public works
& infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA STATEMENT

MINISTER MACPHERSON DIRECTS PRECAUTIONARY SUSPENSION AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR DPWI DIRECTOR ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN R113 MILLION TENDER FRAUD

- Public Works & Infrastructure Minister Dean Macpherson directed the precautionary suspension and initiation of appropriate disciplinary proceedings against a senior CPM director following the official's court appearance on fraud charges linked to a R113 million Mpumalanga schools tender.
- The Minister acted upon learning of the arrest, stressing that any official implicated in serious criminal allegations ought not remain in their role while investigative and/or disciplinary processes are underway
- The Department will cooperate fully with law enforcement, with internal disciplinary processes running in parallel with the criminal matter to protect the integrity of the Department and uphold clean governance.

The Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, has directed the Director General to implement precautionary suspension and disciplinary proceedings against a senior Construction Project Management (CPM) director who appeared in court on Tuesday on charges of fraud in relation to a multimillion-rand project linked to the Mpumalanga Department of Education. The Minister acted after learning that the official had been arrested, alongside others, for allegedly defrauding the Mpumalanga Department of Education of R113 million through a tender established between 2018 and 2019 as an emergency intervention to repair 21 schools in the province.

While the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure was not involved in the tender issued by the Mpumalanga Department of Education, the Minister stressed that all officials within the Department must be beyond reproach. He added that the precautionary suspension and disciplinary action must be in line with the prescripts of the Public Service Act and regulatory framework and be both procedurally and substantively fair. This is necessary to protect the integrity and assets of the Department, while both criminal and internal processes unfold.

“From the day we entered office, we have adopted a zero-tolerance approach to corruption and ethical misconduct within this Department. That position is non-negotiable. Upon becoming aware of the official's arrest and court appearance, I directed the Director-General to implement the precautionary suspension of the official and to initiate appropriate disciplinary

action. Any official implicated in serious criminal allegations, particularly those involving public funds meant for critical infrastructure such as schools, ought not remain in their role while these processes are underway,” Minister Macpherson said.

The Minister added that the Department will fully cooperate with law enforcement authorities and that internal disciplinary processes will proceed in parallel with the criminal matter.

“There will be no protection for wrongdoing. We owe it to the people of South Africa to act decisively against corruption wherever it arises. Every rand lost to fraud is a rand taken away from classrooms, communities and service delivery. We are committed to strengthening governance, tightening oversight, and ensuring that public infrastructure budgets are used strictly for their intended purpose. Accountability is not optional - it is fundamental to restoring trust and ensuring that infrastructure delivery serves the public, not private interests.”

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