

MEDIA RELEASE

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Premier Mathabatha welcomes completion of SIU Investigation into the Talana Housing Matter

The Premier of Limpopo Province Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha welcomes the completion of investigation into the allegations he referred to the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) in July 2020 regarding the construction of shacks for hostel dwellers during the national state of disaster.

Premier Mathabatha said: “We welcome the investigation and fully support the decision by the SIU resulting in the arrest of those who were involved in wrongdoing and referring their conduct to the National Prosecuting Authority for further action.”

“We are scheduled to meet with the SIU to fully understand their report as further civil proceedings shall follow, especially the setting aside of the contract. What has happened is an injustice to the people who were supposed to receive the service”, concluded Premier Mathabatha.

According to the findings made by the SIU, the Limpopo Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Department appointed the Housing Development Agency (HAD) as an implementing agent for the establishment of transitional residential areas. The HDA is a national public sector development agency that acquires and prepares land as well as develops the land and project manages the development of housing and human settlements. It carries out its activities in partnership with a range of stakeholders including national, provincial, and local government and municipalities, as well as with communities, developers, financiers, and other affected parties.

The SIU found that the Housing Development Agency “then appointed a service provider, Aventino, to construct 192 units to the sum of R12.3 million. An extension of scope was approved to include the construction of 152 pit toilets and installation of three water tanks (10 000 litres), for additional fee of R3 million, taking the contract value to R15.3 million.”

The SIU further established that “The appointed service provider, Aventino Group CC, made misrepresentations and forged documents of industry experts with no links to the company to influence the direction of the bid”.

In line with SIU Act 74 of 1996, the SIU referred evidence pointing to criminal action against the director of the Aventino to the National Prosecuting Authority for further action, resulting the director concerned arrested by the Hawks in December 2020 (Polokwane Case: 384/12/2020) and facing criminal charges for submitting

fraudulent documents to influence the direction of the tender, said the SIU in its statement released on Tuesday, 14 September 2021.

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