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Media Release

Limpopo government pleased with the Public Protector's report on procurement of PPE

The Limpopo Provincial government has welcomed the Public Protector's report on "Allegations of maladministration, procurement irregularities and nepotism in the awarding of tenders for the supply and delivery of personal protective equipment by the Limpopo Department of Health."

The Public Protector had taken own initiative on 17 August 2020 to investigate the matter following the news story in the Sunday Independent of 16 August 2020. The newspaper made various allegations including that the tender was awarded irregularly, that it did not follow relevant procurement prescripts and legislations, that there was some favouritism and nepotism in its award and that politicians who are close to the ANC were favoured for the awarding of the tender.

"The Public Protector could not find evidence indicating that the Department did not follow paragraph 14.2.5 of the SCM policy or that the Department contravened National Instruction Note No.05 of 2020/2021: Emergency Procurement in response to the national disaster paragraph 3, which also regulates deviations from inviting bids in instances of emergency," the Public Protector said in their report issued on 29 April 2022.

In addition, the Public Protector could not find any evidence indicating that the [Member of Executive Council] MEC responsible for Health and HOD had any influence in the awarding of PPE tenders even though there is evidence that indicates that some of the service providers are related to politicians and senior government officials.

The report clearly states that: "The Public Protector could not find evidence to prove the alleged possible influence in the procurement processes of the awarding of PPE tenders or the relationship between the Directors of the companies awarded tenders and officials of the department."

The Provincial Government is also pleased that the allegation "that other service providers suffered prejudice as a result of nepotism or favouritism in the awarding of the PPE tender, is unsubstantiated. The Public Protector could not find any evidence indicating undue influence, nepotism and or favouritism during the investigation in the awarding of PPE tenders to the said companies."

The Premier will implement the remedial action against the implicated officials as directed by the Public Protector to remedy the maladministration and improper

conduct referred to in the report. Moreover, disciplinary action has already been instituted against the officials implicated in the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) report on the same matter.

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Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government

Enquiries - Ndavhe Ramakuela (Provincial Government Spokesperson)
082 200 5357
RamakuelaN@premier.limpopo.gov.za

Willy Mosoma (Spokesperson for the Premier)
072 102-4920 or 082 416-1347
MosomaW@premier.limpopo.gov.za