



May 31, 2021

**MEDIA STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
31 MAY 2021**

EASTERN CAPE SCOOTER AMBULANCE CONTRACT DECLARED INVALID

The R10.1 million tender that was irregularly awarded by the Eastern Cape Department of Health (the Department) to Fabkomp Pty Ltd to deliver 100 scooter ambulances has been declared unlawful and invalid.

The Special Tribunal on Friday, 28 May 2021, ordered that the decision of the Department to award a tender to Fabkomp Pty Ltd to deliver 100 scooter ambulances at a hefty cost of R R10 148 750 is reviewed and set aside.

In view of the contract award that was irregularly made by the Department, the SIU instituted civil proceedings in the Special Tribunal last year to interdict the Department from executing the contract and making any payment based on it.

The Special Tribunal granted SIU the interdict and interdicted the Department from making any payments to the supplier and from accepting delivery of any goods from the supplier, pending the finalisation of review proceedings to challenge the validity of the award and resulting contract.

The SIU investigated the allegations relating to the procurement of scooter ambulances following allegations of impropriety. The SIU investigation revealed that the procurement process was irregular, unlawful, full of dishonesty, possible collusion and was designed to favour Fabkomp. The process was in contravention of Section 217 of the Constitution of the

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Republic of South Africa, which demands that public procurement should be fair, transparent and competitive.

Furthermore, the SIU investigation revealed Fabkomp tender failed to satisfy all the requirements for compliance and functionality. Despite, Fabkomp was recommended as having scored 100% in all the set evaluation criteria.

The SIU made two referrals relating to the MEC and the former Superintendent General, which recommended administrative action and disciplinary action respectively. This relates to their involvement in the procurement of scooter ambulances. The referrals were made to Premier Mabuyane on 01 February and supplemented on the 12th February 2021.

Premier Oscar Mabuyane has since relieved Health MEC Sindiswa Gomba from her duties on 18 February 2021 and committed to subject former Superintendent General to a disciplinary inquiry.

In line with SIU Act 74 of 1996, the SIU referred evidence pointing to criminality to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the Hawks for further action.

Fraud and corruption allegations may be reported via the following platforms:
siu@whistleblowing.co.za / Hotline: 0800 037 774

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ABOUT THE SIU:

The SIU is an independent statutory body with a primary mandate to investigate allegations of corruption, malpractice and maladministration in the affairs of government departments, municipalities and State Owned Entities, and to recover financial losses suffered by State institutions. The SIU was established in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunal Act, Act No 74 of 1996 (SIU Act).

The SIU has powers to subpoena witnesses, bank statements and cellphone records, search, seize evidence and interrogate witnesses under oath. The SIU can take civil action to correct any wrongdoing it uncovers in its investigations.

Where criminal conduct is uncovered during investigations, the SIU will bring the matter to the attention of its partners Hawks in the South African Police Service (SAPS), as well as the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for further action.



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