



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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SPECIAL INVESTIGATING UNIT CLEARS KZN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON THE PROCUREMENT OF WATER TANKS

Following a lengthy investigation by the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) into the procurement of COVID 19 essentials within the Education Department in KwaZulu-Natal, MEC Kwazi Mshengu welcomes the interim report which has found no wrong-doing on the part of the Department in the procurement and delivery of water tanks to schools.

This investigation resulted from social media posts alleging that the Department of Education procured water tanks at unreasonable, exorbitant and inflated prices.

During the entire course of the investigation, the Department fully co-operated with the SIU and provided all necessary documents.

The SIU eventually found that *“in essence, the KZN DoE did not procure the water tanks as alleged and the matter is now closed.”*

Commenting on the report, MEC Mshengu said, *“I accept the report and reminded of one unknown author who once said the truth is like a lion, you don’t need to defend it but unleash it so that it defends itself. This report is also a necessary moral booster to all the well-meaning and credible employees who have been under severe strain and attacks since the surfacing of these allegations.”*

The SIU Report further acknowledged that the Department is at various stages of implementing recommendations of matters of transgression as found by the Auditor General. To this end, two senior managers from SCM are on suspension and undergoing disciplinary hearings relating to allegations of facilitating cover-quoting, awarding service providers that were not Tax Compliant and related matters.

MEC Mshengu has further committed to act decisively against any form of corruption and warned officials never to fall into temptation to act outside the ambit of the law.

“As I said from the first day I assumed the responsibility of being MEC, I will not co-exist with any form of corruption. I also undertook never to issue any unlawful instruction that is not consistent with the duties of the MEC. Anyone who seeks to issue any unlawful instruction under my name or that of the ANC, must be reported immediately” said MEC Mshengu.

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ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION