



The Head

Special Investigating Unit
Republic of South Africa

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST FOR ASSESSMENT AND INVESTIGATION: KZN NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME PROCUREMENT PROCESS

I write in my capacity as the Democratic Alliance's KwaZulu-Natal Spokesperson on Education and a member of the KZN Legislature's Education Portfolio Committee to formally refer concerns relating to the procurement process for the province's National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).

The referral follows prolonged delays in finalising disputes before the Provincial Treasury Bid Appeals Tribunal, together with allegations of procurement irregularities raised by affected bidders.

The tender process involved approximately 20,000 bids for 1,756 NSNP clusters across KwaZulu-Natal. Given its scale, the substantial public funds involved and the programme's importance to vulnerable learners, the procurement process must withstand the highest level of scrutiny.

The concerns requiring independent assessment include:

1. Whether the procurement process complied fully with applicable supply-chain management legislation, regulations, and policies;
2. Whether all bidders were evaluated fairly, consistently and transparently;
3. Whether any conflicts of interest, political connections or improper relationships influenced the award of contracts;
4. Whether any officials, bidders or connected persons engaged in corruption, collusion, maladministration or other improper conduct;
5. Whether the delays and handling of appeals resulted from administrative failures or deliberate interference;
6. Whether any irregular expenditure, financial loss or prejudice to the state occurred; and
7. Whether any person or entity derived an unlawful or improper benefit from the procurement process.

The KZN Department of Education has maintained that the process complied with the relevant supply-chain management requirements. This referral does not constitute a finding of wrongdoing against any individual or entity. It is a request that the SIU independently establish the facts and determine whether grounds exist for further investigation or other appropriate action.

The continuing uncertainty has serious consequences. The NSNP provides daily nutritional support to millions of learners, many of whom rely on the programme for their most dependable meal. They cannot remain caught in prolonged procurement disputes or exposed to risks arising from an inadequately scrutinised process.

I therefore respectfully request that the SIU:



KWAZULU-NATAL
LEGISLATURE

HON. SAKHILE MNGADI, MPL

Member of the Provincial Legislature

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- assess the information and supporting documentation accompanying this referral;
- determine whether the matters raised fall within an existing proclamation or mandate;
- advise whether further information is required;
- consider initiating the necessary process for a presidential proclamation, should one be required; and
- refer any evidence of criminality or misconduct to the appropriate authorities.

I am prepared to provide all documentation presently available to me and to cooperate with any preliminary assessment or investigation.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this referral and advise on the next steps, including the allocation of a reference number.

Yours faithfully,

Sakhile Mngadi MPL

DA KZN Spokesperson on Education

Member: KZN Legislature Education Portfolio Committee

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