



INTERNET ARTICLE

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Punitive measures to be imposed against transgressors

Officials found to be in contravention of the Public Finance Management Act could find themselves paying for any irregular, unauthorized, fruitless or wasteful expenditure incurred by the State. This is according to Director for Risk Management in the Department of Water and Sanitation, Mr Duncan Ntuli, speaking during the Irregular Expenditure Workshop held in Kimberly recently.

Ntuli said it is incumbent upon all officials to take effective and appropriate steps to prevent within their areas of responsibility any unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

He told officials that anyone who becomes aware of any irregular expenditure can report it in writing to the Accounting Officer, who in this case is the Provincial Head. The Accounting Officer or delegated authority will then institute an investigation that will determine whether the expenditure in question meets the definition of irregular expenditure. It must also then be determined who is to be held liable for the irregular expenditure; the amount of irregular expenditure to be recovered and the losses and damages suffered by the State.

“If the investigation reveals that the expenditure does not constitute irregular expenditure, the details of the alleged irregular expenditure and the relevant supporting documentation must be retained in the register for purposes of auditing. But should the investigation indicate that the expenditure is in fact an irregular expenditure, the Accounting Officer must immediately institute an investigation to determine the official liable for irregular expenditure.



water & sanitation

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A hearing based on the supporting documentation gathered during the enquiry or the investigation must be made available to the person implicated to respond to the evidence tabled against him or her. If the official who is still in the employ of the institution denies liability, the Accounting Officer may refer the matter to the state attorney”, Ntuli said.

Other Treasury Regulations stipulate that all public money may only be spent if approved by the proper delegated official. Bids must be advertised in at least the Government Tender Bulletin for a minimum period of 21 days before bid closure and the Department must provide clear criteria against which a bid shall be evaluated ; these criteria must be contained in the original request for quotations or bid documentation.

Payments may only be made to service providers after the conclusion of a valid contract.

Any deviations from procurement processes may only take place under exceptional circumstances and procurement transactions may not be deliberately split into parts of smaller value to avoid complying with the requirements of the Supply Chain Management policy and legislation.

By Amogelang Moholoeng