



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Gauteng officials take a stand against fraud and corruption

15 August 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation's Gauteng Provincial Office took a stance to deal with all forms of corruption in the public service when it held a fraud awareness workshop on Wednesday, 15 August 2018.

Fraud and corruption are amongst some of the biggest challenges that face the public service, leading to compromised service delivery. Dealing with these challenges would put the public service in a position to deliver services to communities and promote social and economic development.

The awareness workshop was facilitated by Ms Carol Ndadza, a Senior Forensic Auditor attached to the Department's Internal Auditing Chief Directorate.

Opening the workshop, Ms Ndadza, explained the functions of Forensic Investigations and Quality Assurance, saying their core mandate was, amongst others, to develop and implement the Fraud Prevention Plan, investigate allegations of fraud and corruption, attend to disciplinary and other hearings and to implement the Quality Assurance Programme.

Ms Ndadza said the fight against fraud and corruption was not taking place in a vacuum but was guided by various pieces of legislation and regulations. These legislations include, but not limited to, the Protected Disclosure Act, Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, Prevention of Organised Crime Act.

She said over and above these pieces of legislation, the Code of Conduct for the Public Service and the Department's Fraud Policy Response Plan were some of the vital instruments which were used to combat offences of fraud and corruption.

Dispelling the confusion as to what exactly constitutes fraud, Ms Ndadza highlighted the elements of the crime and gave its definition in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Act.

"The crime of fraud is constituted by various elements. Thus the definition of fraud is that it is an unlawful and intentional making of a misrepresentation resulting in actual or potential prejudice to another," said Ms Ndadza, adding that this was a serious crime that needed to be dealt with earnestly .

Other forms of crime such as corruption, bribery and embezzlement were defined and explained.

The commission of these crimes was ascribed to greed and boredom.

She said: "According to research, there are three reasons why employees resort to committing fraud. These include pressure, opportunity and rationalisation. However, the main root cause is greed, need and boredom."

Gauteng's Labour Relations Officer, Mr Pravesh Gayaparsad, said the objective of the awareness workshop was to encourage officials to practice ethical culture in the Department.



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He said compliance with policies, rules and regulations in the Department were at the heart of good governance and the imperative of service delivery.

“Our aim is for officials to report those that are involved in fraud and corrupt activities in order to eliminate such unlawful misconducts within the Department,” said Mr Gayaparsad.

He added that the moral compass of any public servant must dictate that whenever they see the scourge of fraud and corruption they have a responsibility to report.

One of the officials who attended the workshop, Mr Daniel Masoga, said he was encouraged that the Department was making an effort to educate officials about issues that were having a detrimental effect on service delivery.

“Acts of crime in whatever form have time and again proved to be the enemy of service delivery. As public servants, we cannot stand idle when our country’s resources are being plundered by rogue elements. We must take a stand and call them out,” said Mr Masoga.

Hosia Sithole