

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIU AND KZN TREASURY JOIN HANDS TO STRENGTHEN GOOD GOVERNANCE

PIETERMARITZBURG: The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) continued to forge good working relations with the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Treasury today when they met to discuss the Department's risk management plan to combat fraud and corruption.

The initiative is part of the SIU's Prevention, Advisory and Awareness Anti-Corruption Campaign which was initiated as part of the SIU's revised operating model. The campaign aims to build partnerships between the SIU and government departments while instilling values of good governance.

The partners emphasised the importance of, firstly, creating early-warning systems to proactively detect and prevent fraud and corruption and, secondly, ensuring the implementation of consistent consequence management.

Addressing the Department staff during the workshop, SIU's Chief Programme Portfolio Officer, Mr Pranesh Maharaj said the purpose of the awareness campaign is two-fold:

- (a) To allow Provincial Treasury to identify its key risk and mitigation strategies which will inform its risk management plan, and
- (b) To break down silos in government by getting state institutions, to leverage off the skills that the SIU can offer in the prevention and combatting of fraud, maladministration and corruption.

Mr Maharaj said, "This is not about '*us versus them*' - we come together as two organisations to work as a collective to protect the public interest and the public purse. It is incumbent upon us to win the fight against fraud and corruption. This can only be done when state institutions stand together as one."

Mr Maharaj said that the workshop will culminate in the preparation of a systemic improvement plan by the SIU in consultation with the Provincial Treasury. The SIU will assist the Provincial Treasury with implementation of the Plan and will also monitor implementation.

The workshop focused on the identification mitigation of organisational risks in the areas of Supply Chain Management, Financial Management, Risk Management and Administration/Document Management.

KZN Provincial Treasury Head of Department, Ms Carol Coetzee, said that this is an important and necessary campaign. She thanked the SIU for bringing it to the department.

“We want to build a strong working relationship with the SIU, given the mandate of the Treasury. We want to see a shift on how we work and not see the organisation as a watchdog. As Treasury, it is important that we seek guidance from the SIU when confronted with complex policy matters. We are all working for government and we need to be able to open the lines of communication to eliminate the need for investigations,” said HoD Coetzee.

A risk management approach to corruption prevention is a good way to ensure that the risks of corruption are identified, understood and effectively managed.

The approach helps to identify structural weaknesses that may facilitate corruption; provides a framework for every level of authority in an organisation to take part in identifying risk factors and risk mitigation measures; and embeds corruption prevention within the organisation’s governance framework.

The SIU works together with State institutions to conduct targeted awareness campaigns such as this one to create an environment where accountability and consequence management is encouraged. The added advantage of this collaboration is to send a clear message that the SIU, in keeping with the spirit of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, is actively working together with state institutions to share knowledge and skills to ensure that the fight against corruption is strengthened and that the SIU’s recommendations for consequence management and remedial; action are duly and consistently implemented.

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ISSUED BY: The Special Investigating Unit and KZN Provincial Treasury.

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