



AUDITOR - GENERAL  
SOUTH AFRICA

# MEDIA RELEASE

29 September 2022

## CPO Mr Mabaso dismissed with immediate effect

**PRETORIA** – The Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) has, following an independent disciplinary hearing against the chief people officer (CPO), Mr Mlungisi Mabaso, accepted the findings of the chairperson and the recommendation of Mr Mabaso's summary dismissal. Deputy Auditor-General (DAG) Vonani Chauke, as the accounting officer of the institution, has effected the dismissal.

Mr Mabaso was served with the dismissal notice on 28 September 2022.

Mr Mabaso was charged with gross misconduct for threatening Auditor-General Tsakani Maluleke, making several accusations against her and stating that he can cause her harm. He also attempted to extort an unauthorised gratification from the auditor-general in exchange for not disclosing the allegations. The latter act is in contravention of section 10 of the Prevention and Combatting of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004. The charge of gross misconduct included Mr Mabaso failing to submit allegations through the proper channels within the AGSA. He was further charged for violating his suspension conditions by sending a letter to several staff members without authorisation.

Mr Mabaso was also charged with gross dishonesty. It emerged during his disciplinary process that, at the time of applying for the CPO role at the AGSA, he failed to disclose his previous employment with Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Limited as head of Human Capital Aurecon Africa-Middle East from August 2010 to July 2013. Instead, he indicated in his curriculum vitae that he was employed by the Bühler Group (Pty) Ltd from October 2010 to July 2016. Mr Mabaso also failed to disclose that Aurecon had instituted a claim for damages in the Labour Court and opened a criminal case against him.

Mr Mabaso appeared before an independent disciplinary inquiry chaired by Advocate Emmanuel Motuku, SC on 21 September 2022. Regrettably, Mr Mabaso elected not to participate in the inquiry and staged a walkout after the chairperson did not rule in his favour for a postponement. However, the inquiry took place in his absence, with the AGSA leading evidence through an independent initiator, Advocate Lourens Malan, SC. The AGSA's evidence was uncontested and the hearing concluded on the same day.

The chairperson handed down his ruling on 23 September 2022 and found that the AGSA had proved all the charges levelled against the CPO and found him guilty of all charges. He then recommended summary dismissal as an appropriate sanction in light of the evidence presented.

The DAG took the findings and the chairperson's recommendation under consideration and subsequently terminated the CPO's employment at the AGSA.

"We have undertaken a very painful process which has taken a toll on the AGSA and its reputation. The dismissal of the CPO has not been taken lightly, and the findings against him are very serious. However, we hope this brings this matter to an end and we can now focus on executing our constitutional mandate," said the DAG.

**Media note:**

**About the AGSA:** The AGSA is the country's supreme audit institution. It is the only institution that, by law, has to audit and report on how government is spending taxpayers' money. This has been the focus of the AGSA since its inception in 1911.

**End.**

**Issued by:** Auditor-General of South Africa

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