



AUDITOR-GENERAL  
SOUTH AFRICA

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **AGSA undertakes an investigation and independent legal review**

**PRETORIA** – The Auditor General South Africa (AGSA) today announced that it commissioned an independent review into two related matters and subsequently initiated a disciplinary process against the organisation's Chief People Officer (CPO).

The Auditor-General (AG), Ms Tsakani Maluleke, requested the review following a meeting with the CPO, Mr Mlungisi Mabaso on 27 June 2022. In the meeting, Mr Mabaso accused the AG of "corrupt, unprofessional and unethical conduct" as AG currently as well as in her previous deputy-AG (DAG) role. The CPO wanted mutual separation (financial settlement) in exchange for him not exposing allegations to the public.

In the interest of accountability and transparency, the AG acted swiftly and reported the CPO's conduct, along with the allegations he had made against her to the current DAG, Mr Vonani Chauke who is also the AGSA's accounting officer. Mr Chauke in turn, instituted an independent legal review of the two matters. These were conducted by Bowmans, a law firm.

To ensure accountability, the AG and DAG also briefed the Exco of AGSA and the appropriate oversight bodies, including the Audit Committee of the AGSA and the parliamentary Standing Committee on the Auditor-General (Scoag), about the accusations and conduct of the CPO and the steps the AG had initiated to ensure that these were both independently and adequately investigated. The AGSA continues to update the two oversight committees as these matters progress.

The legal opinion into the legality of the transactions and decisions made by Ms. Maluleke has since been concluded and has found no merit in the allegations that the AG's conduct amounted to corruption or unprofessional, unethical behaviour. While the investigation into the conduct of the CPO has led to charges of gross misconduct against him and a disciplinary

process, the CPO is on precautionary suspension until the completion of the disciplinary enquiry, which will be chaired by an independent senior counsel appointed for this purpose. He is expected to appear before the disciplinary committee before the end of September 2022.

The DAG said: "There are standard procedures through which staff (or the public) can raise any good faith concerns about AGSA decision-making. We believe process governance and transparency are critical to rebuilding trust and restoring good governance within our public institutions. The AGSA is a vital part of the country's governance framework. So, whenever concerns are raised, we give each matter the appropriate consideration, investigate as necessary, follow due process, and communicate our findings.

"The allegations made are of a serious nature and should not be taken lightly. We have adopted a stance that if we are to add value to strengthen the systems of integrity, transparency, accountability and performance in public institutions, we must hold ourselves to the same standards or better yet, lead by example in demonstrating an ongoing commitment to integrity, transparency, accountability and performance. This does not mean we are infallible, but it means we must be accountable and open to learning and correction. We will study the report and consider any recommendations of strengthening our processes and governance. I remain focused on my constitutional mandate and will continue to execute it without fear or favour" said AG Maluleke

The DAG will upon completion of the process, implement the appropriate action and report through the established accountability structures at our disposal.

**Ends.**

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

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