



Joint media statement

To: All media

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CSIR and SIU join forces in deployment of advanced technologies to curb corruption

The use of advanced technology to curb fraud, corruption and cyber-related crimes received a massive boost when the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Special Investigation Unit (SIU) agreed to collaborate in capacitating the country with fraud and corruption prevention tools.

Today, 22 August 2022, the Head of the SIU, Advocate Andy Mothibi, and the CSIR CEO, Dr Thulani Dlamini, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) expressing their commitment to sharing expertise and skills to drive research, development and innovation in the fields of data science and information and cyber security.

The signing of the MoU between the two government entities signals a coordinated effort to enhance the use of technology to fight the scourge of corruption and maladministration in the country. The organisations agreed to collaborate on a variety of strategic areas, which include, enhancing data analytics and sharing, digital forensics, information and cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, distributed ledger technology or blockchain and cyber infrastructure support.

The partnership will see capability building in the development of digital investigation tools, digital forensic investigations and analysis, cloud and high-performance computing to uproot cybercrimes before they occur.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Pretoria, the head of the SIU, Adv. Mothibi, lauded the collaboration as a step in the right direction to fighting cybercrimes.

“Our partnership with the CSIR is in line with the SIU’s strategy of detecting fraud and corruption early and having systems in place that prevent these crimes. We live in a digitised world and criminals are using technology to their advantage – we cannot be left behind. The expertise and



technology that the CSIR are offering the SIU are needed in order to fulfill our mandate. We cannot fight crime alone, which is why this partnership is important to the SIU,” said Adv. Mothibi.

Dr Dlamini hailed the partnership as critical saying that it forms part of the continuous role that the CSIR is playing to support a capable state.

“The fight against corruption and cybercrimes is a major issue in South Africa. The work that we do contributes to ensuring that we support a capable state. Through this partnership, the CSIR will utilise its research competency to assist the SIU with the necessary technological solutions to tackle cybercrimes. Our team of experts in data science, information security, as well as cybersecurity, blockchain and artificial intelligence, are ready to assist,” said Dr Dlamini.

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Issued by the SIU and CSIR Strategic Communications

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About the SIU

The SIU is an independent statutory body that was established in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act, Act No. 74 of 1996. The primary mandate of the SIU is to investigate serious allegations of corruption, malpractice and maladministration in the administration of State institutions, State assets and public money as well as any conduct which may seriously harm the interests of the public, and to recover any financial losses suffered by State institutions through civil litigation. The SIU is empowered to take civil action to correct any wrongdoing it uncovers in its investigations. The SIU has powers to subpoena witnesses, bank statements and cellphone records, search, seize evidence and interrogate witnesses under oath and to litigate on behalf of the State. In line with SIU Act, the SIU refers evidence pointing to criminal conduct uncovered during its investigations to the attention of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for further action. For more information, visit <https://www.siu.org.za/>



About the CSIR:

The CSIR, an entity of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, is one of the leading scientific and technology research, development and implementation organisations in Africa. Constituted by an Act of Parliament in 1945 as a science council, the CSIR undertakes directed and multidisciplinary research and technological innovation, as well as industrial and scientific development to improve the quality of life of all South Africans. For more information, visit <http://www.csir.co.za>

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