



September 21, 2022

**MEDIA STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
21 SEPTEMBER 2022**

SIU GRANTED ORDER TO FREEZE PENSION BENEFITS OF FORMER NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION'S EXECUTIVE

The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) has obtained a preservation order from the Special Tribunal to freeze pension benefits of Mr. Philemon Letwaba, the former Chief Operating Officer of the National Lotteries Commission (NLC).

The Special Tribunal order, dated 16 September 2022, interdicts the Liberty Group — the pension administrator — from paying out pension benefits to the value of approximately R2.8 million due to Mr. Letwaba, pending the final determination of an application to be brought by the SIU against Mr. Letwaba within 60 days.

The SIU approached the Special Tribunal on an urgent basis to freeze the pension benefits of Mr. Letwaba after he resigned from the NLC pending the institution of a disciplinary hearing into his role in the distribution of NLC funds to several Non-Profit Organisations (NPO).

An investigation by the SIU in the affairs of NLC had revealed that Mr. Letwaba allegedly benefited personally from monies received by NPOs from the NLC. The SIU investigation had revealed that Mr. Letwaba allegedly used friends and family businesses, and Trusts to receive money from NPOs for his benefit and that of his family.

Pretoria: 74 Watermeyer Street, Rentmeester Building, Meyers Park, 0183 | Eastern Cape: Sanlam Park, 59 Western Avenue, Vincent
KwaZulu-Natal: 214 Dr Pixley Kaseme Street, Durban Central, Durban, 4001 10th Floor Liberty Towers | Free State: 195 Nelson Mandela Drive, Telkom House
(College Square), Bloemfontein | Mpumalanga: 25 Samora Machel Drive, Mbombela Centre, 4th floor, Mbombela, 1200 | Limpopo: Ground Floor,
Moolman 500 Building, 31 Mark Street, Polokwane, 0070 | Western Cape: 1st Floor, Bytes Technology Building Raapenberg Road Golf Park, Pinelands, 7405
North West: 1st Floor, Protea Office Park, Sekame Road, Mahikeng | Mthatha: 13th Floor, PRD Building, Sutherland Street, Mthata, 5100
Hotline: 0800 037 774 | www.siu.org.za | info@siu.org.za

The State's preferred and trusted anti-corruption forensic investigation and litigation agency

The names of the businesses and Trusts are:

- Unbrand Properties
- Mosokodi Water Solutions and Drilling
- Mosokodi Farming Project
- Kaone Wethu
- Redtag
- Mosokodi Trust
- Letwaba Family Trust

In one of several NLC funded projects investigated by the SIU, it was revealed that a Limpopo Province based NPO received approximately R25 million for the refurbishment of a torched school in Vuwani. Twelve days after the NPO received the money, it allegedly transferred approximately R4 million to Unbrand Properties without evidence of work being done and in violation of the funding agreement.

The SIU was, in terms of Proclamation R32 of 2020, authorised by President Cyril Ramaphosa to investigate allegations of corruption and maladministration in the affairs of NLC and the conduct of NLC officials, and to recover any financial losses suffered by the State.

The proclamation covers offences which took place between 1 January 2014 and 6 November 2020, the date of publication of this Proclamation, or which took place prior to 1 January 2014. It also covers any offences after the proclamation date that are relevant to, connected with, incidental to the matters or involve the same persons, entities or contracts investigated under authority of Proclamation R32 of 2020.

The SIU is empowered by the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunals Act 74 of 1996 to institute civil action in the Special Tribunal or the High Court to correct any wrongdoing it uncovers in its investigation. Where evidence points to a criminal conduct, the SIU refers the evidence to the National Prosecuting Authority for further action.

The preservation order granted by the Special Tribunal is a continuation of the implementation of the SIU investigation outcomes and consequence management to recover assets and financial losses suffered by State institutions and/or to prevent further losses.

Fraud and corruption allegations may be reported via the following platforms:
siu@hotline.co.za / Hotline: 0800 037 774.

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ABOUT THE SIU:

The SIU is an independent statutory body with a primary mandate to investigate allegations of corruption, malpractice and maladministration in the affairs of government departments, municipalities and State Owned Entities, and to recover financial losses suffered by State institutions. The SIU was established in terms of the Special Investigating Units and Special Tribunal Act, Act No 74 of 1996 (SIU Act).

The SIU has powers to subpoena witnesses, bank statements and cellphone records, search, seize evidence and interrogate witnesses under oath. The SIU can take civil action to correct any wrongdoing it uncovers in its investigations.

Where criminal conduct is uncovered during investigations, the SIU will bring the matter to the attention of its partners Hawks in the South African Police Service (SAPS), as well as the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)