



July 23, 2021

**MEDIA STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
23 JULY 2021**

SIU WELCOMES HIGH COURT JUDGMENT DISMISSING AN APPLICATION WITH COSTS BY LIESEL MOSES TO INTERDICT INVESTIGATION INTO R27 MILLION NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION FUNDING

The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) welcomes the judgment of the High Court of South Africa: Gauteng Division, Pretoria to dismiss with costs an application by Liesel Joy Moses seeking to interdict the SIU from investigating or questioning her about R27 million received from National Lotteries Commission (NLC).

Moses, a beneficiary of NLC funding, applied for an urgent court interdict in the Pretoria High Court to prohibit the SIU from questioning her about the R27.2 million her organisation received in 2016. Moses together with her lawyer Mr. Lesley Ramulifho applied for NLC funding on behalf of Denzhe Primary Care to build a drug rehabilitation centre in Pretoria. It is alleged that the funds received from NLC were not used for the purpose it was requested for but instead benefited individuals.

The SIU subpoenaed Moses on 31 May 2021 and informed her that the Unit is investigating allegations of corruption, irregularities, maladministration and improper or unlawful conduct of the NLC employees together with payments made by NLC. Moses appeared with her lawyer and requested a 14-day postponement, which the SIU granted but later requested yet another postponed, something the SIU refused to entertain. The SIU wishes to question Moses and obtain documents relating to Denzhe in order to enable the Unit in determining whether there was any impropriety or unlawfulness in the allocation of the funding.

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The NLC investigation follows the signing of proclamation R32 of 2020 by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 6 November authorizing the SIU to investigate allegations of corruption and maladministration in the affairs of NLC, and to recover any financial losses suffered by the State or NLC. The proclamation authorizes the SIU to use all its legislative powers to subpoena bank statements and cellphone records, search and seize evidence, and interrogate witnesses under oath in an effort to hold those responsible for the State or NLC's financial losses to account for their actions. Where criminal conduct is uncovered during investigations, the SIU will refer the evidence to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), as well as the Hawks in the South African Police Service (SAPS) for further action.

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

Enquiries:

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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.



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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) for further action.



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