



Special Tribunal, Magistrates' Court Booyens
Rifle Range and Amanda Streets, Turffontein 2019
Tel: (011) 210 7300

All Media

23 November 2021

R431 MILLION GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REVIEW APPLICATION INTO THE SCHOOLS DECONTAMINATION CONTRACTS (GP13/2021)

The Special Tribunal will on Wednesday (tomorrow) morning hear the legal arguments in the review application over the R431 million schools decontamination, disinfection, deep cleaning and sanitization contracts in several Gauteng schools.

Following on the declaration of the state of national disaster in the wake of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department of Education in Gauteng embarked on an emergency procurement of services to sanitize the schools in Gauteng and appointed 280 service providers. It is alleged that 173 service providers were not on the departmental database of service providers and their services were sourced through whatsapp and phone calls. Their appointment is alleged to be irregular.

The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) has brought in a substantive application to the Special Tribunal seeking relief to review and set aside the contracts and recover the monies from the alleged recipients.

The SIU argues in the pleadings that the service providers were given a blanket amount of between R250 000 and R270 000 for primary schools, R250 000 and R290 000 for secondary schools and R250 000 and R300 000 for district offices. 263 services providers submitted invoices and have since been paid.

On the 17th May 2021, the Special Tribunal granted an interim preservation order, prohibiting the Fikile Mpfana (Pty) Ltd and 13 other respondents from dealing in any manner with the funds that they hold in the bank accounts, investments and or properties. The order was granted pending the finalization of the review proceedings.

At the time of making the urgent *ex parte* application, the SIU alleged that service providers who received the money from the Department have been disposing of those funds and that the dissipation was halted, to some degree, by the Financial Intelligence Centre's intervention.

The review application will be heard virtually on Wednesday, 24th November 2021, at 08H00.

Media enquiries:

Selby Makgotho

Spokesperson of the Special Tribunal of the Republic of South Africa

Tel: (011) 210 7309

Cell: 082 907 5082

E-mail: smakgotho@justice.gov.za

Skype: Selby Makgotho

Twitter: @TribunalSpecial