
MEDIA RESPONSE

Tuesday, 28 January 2025

Dear Mr. Tumelo Dibakwane

RE: YOUR MEDIA INQUIRY

Your inquiry via WhatsApp, dated 28 January 2025 refers. Herewith is the Department's response:

1. We confirm that, indeed, two officials were suspended on full pay for a period exceeding 60 days during the 2023-2024 financial year, as you indicated.
2. However, the amount paid to the two officials during their suspension was R617, 988.83 (six hundred and seventeen thousand, nine-hundred and eighty-eight rands and eighty-three cents) and NOT R6,7 million as you indicated.
3. The reason for the suspensions taking more than 60 days was due to postponements, deemed necessary, agreed upon between the employees and the chairperson of the Disciplinary Hearings.

-ENDS-

Kind regards,

Dr Mohau Ramodibe
Head of Communication & Spokesperson
Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Notes to Editors:

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism, under the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, is mandated to stimulate economic growth and development in the Province, so as to create sustainable and decent employment, economic transformation and to alleviate poverty. The Department has three (3) Public Entities; namely, Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA), Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), and Mpumalanga Economic Regulator (MER), to which it has delegated some of its constitutionally-mandated functions. These functions relate to: trade and investment promotion; funding of SMMEs; tourism growth and development; tourism marketing; regulation of the gambling and liquor industries, including collection of gambling levies and liquor license fees, amongst others.