

# Dispute over records delays arms probe

**Ernest Mabuza**

ANOTHER delay has hit the Arms Procurement Commission, which will now only resume next week.

The commission yesterday decided it could not hear the testimony of Armscor's programme manager Frits Nortjé.

This was because Richard Young, an outspoken arms deal critic who has been granted permission to cross-

examine Nortjé, had not disclosed his documents.

Young was an unsuccessful bidder in the arms procurement process.

The commission has been plagued by postponements for reasons ranging from the unavailability of documents and the declassification of important documents for the commission's work.

Yesterday, commission chairman Judge Willie Seriti ordered Young to produce the

documents listed in his discovery affidavit by next Monday.

"Unfortunately, we have to adjourn until March 3.

"The evidence of Nortjé will be dealt with at a date still to be determined," Judge Seriti said.

Nortjé was notified last year that he had to appear before the commission, and Young was granted leave to cross-examine Nortjé in October.



**VOICES:** A police choir at the state of the province address at the Gauteng legislature, Johannesburg, yesterday. ● See pictures on Page 7

PHOTO: VELI NHLAPO

# Mokonyane pats own back

## 'WE'VE IMPROVED EDUCATION'

**Katlego Moeng**

**GAUTENG premier Nomvula Mokonyane believes the success of Gauteng's education system depends on stability in Soweto's schools.**

"Soweto sneezes and everyone catches a cold," she said, speaking about the township's "best results ever" in last year's matric exams.

Mokonyane was opening the legislature with the state of the province address in Johannesburg yesterday, where she outlined her government's achievements over the past five years.

She patted herself on the back for turning around the township's matric performance from a 58% pass rate in 2009, when her administration took over, to 83% in 2013.

Her administration has built 141 schools and added 2 000 classrooms to existing schools.

Only 43 schools received below a 60% matric pass rate, compared to 234 when her administration started.

Of the province's 1.7 million pupils, 1.6 million are in no-fee schools and 1.2 million

receive meals at school.

But the premier's address was not so convincing in other areas like health, where her department has had to develop a litigation strategy "with a view to manage the number of litigations that the department is faced with".

She said she was working with the state attorney's office. The Gauteng health department faces more than 300 legal claims worth just under R2-billion.

Mokonyane promised that two hospitals which were supposed to be opened in 2009, Zola Hospital in Jabulani, Soweto, and the new Natal-spruit Hospital in Vosloorus, East Rand, would be opened this year - in April and July respectively.

She said R477-million would be spent over the next three years to refurbish and rehabilitate hospitals.

The health department has been besieged with problems such as service providers not being paid on time, equipment breakdowns, to due to non-maintenance and faulty generators in hospitals.

Mokonyane identified the

automotive sector establishing itself in Gauteng as one of the pillars of job creation.

In 2012, the province constructed its first automotive training academy. Gauteng has three vehicle assembler plants - Nissan/Renault, BMW and Ford Motor Corporation. She outlined plans to grow capacity in this sector.

Overall, more than 800 000 jobs were created in the province. Just more than 100 000 youths went through the expanded public works programme.

Mokonyane urged residents to respect the rights of others who were not part of protests, but did not elaborate further.

She did not address any of the issues of lack of sanitation, electricity and water, and corruption in the housing allocation queues that have been raised by various communities from informal settlements in the province.

Instead, she rehashed a commitment to the existing township and squatter camp formalisation programmes announced at the beginning of her term.

● See more on page 17

### NOTICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED RUSTENBURG STRENGTHENING PROJECT: CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF ±2 KM 400KV LOOP IN LOOP OUT POWERLINE AND 400/132KV MARANG B SUBSTATION WITHIN RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF BOJANALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Notice is given in terms of the EIA Regulations published in Government Notice R543 Chapter 6, Section 54 sub-regulation 2(d) of 18 June 2010 under the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act 108 of 1998), of intent by ESKOM Holdings SOC (Ltd) to strengthen the Rustenburg network by constructing and operating the following infrastructure:

- i. A new 3x 500MVA 400/132kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS), Marang B on approximately ±30 hectares;
- ii. ±2km 400kV loop-in-loop-out power line from the existing Bighorn-Marang/Medupi-Marang 400 kV power lines.

#### LOCATION

The proposed project will be in close proximity to the existing 400/88kV Marang Main Transmission substation on Farm Klipgat 281 JQ and Portion 2 of the Farm Elandsheuvel 282 JQ, located approximately 14 km North East of Rustenburg.

#### EIA PROCESS

The development is listed in terms of Government Notice R545 and Government Notice R546, Listing Notice 2 and 3 under Chapter 5 of the National Environment Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), and therefore requires a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken. The project will trigger listed activities No. 8 and 15 of Government Notice R545 and activity 4c i(ee) of Government R546 which state that:

**GN R.545 Activity 8:** The construction of infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex;

**GN R545 Activity 15:** Physical alteration of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land or residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use where the total area to be transformed is 20 hectares or more; and

**GN R546 Activity 4c i (ee):** The construction of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5metres in North West in critical biodiversity areas (Terrestrial Type 1 and 2 and Aquatic Type 1) as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans

An application to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment Process has been lodged with the Department of Environmental Affairs and was assigned **DEA Reference No:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/611.

You are invited to attend public participation meetings to discuss the project at the following venues:

Date	Venue	Time
04 March 2014	Thekwane Primary School, Thekwane, North West	1700hrs
05 March 2014	Mfidikoe Primary School, Mfidikoe, North West	1700hrs
06 March 2014	Photsaneng High school, Photsaneng, North West	1700hrs

For further details you can contact the EAP below:

#### Environmental Assessment Practitioner

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