



EFF STATEMENT ON THE SIU EFFORTS TO RECOVER STOLEN MONEY FROM FORMER CFO OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Friday, 15 January 2021

The EFF welcomes the intervention by the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to freeze the state pension payment to a former CFO of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to recover stolen money through procurement of PPEs. The SIU has successfully petitioned the Special Tribunal to interdict the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) from paying pension benefits due to the former CFO Jacob Hlatshwayo.

The EFF wrote to all departments including the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to warn about the rampant corruption far much earlier in the lockdown. However, ministers failed to put measures in place to stop and prevent further looting of resources. The money stolen meant for PPEs was meant to save lives and those that stole it are complicit in the loss of many lives of our people because of the lack of PPE.

The EFF calls on all departments to institute and speed up disciplinary actions against corruption to rid departments of such corrupt people such as Department of Public Works 14 officials in Beitbridge Border involved in PPE corruption. We further call on departments to open criminal cases and civil claims against corrupt officials to recoup the stolen money from their pension fund.

The EFF also warns the SUI not to protect politicians in their investigations on PPE related matters. We want to see the same energy, honesty and credibility in all their investigation for both officials and politicians and should approach the Special Tribunal with all matters where there is a case to answer and the need to recoup stolen money.

While Hlatshwayo is suspended and the SIU has successfully petitioned the Special Tribunal to freeze his pension state payment, there must be a criminal case to ensure that justice is done, and corruption has consequences. For far too long, many officials participate in corrupt activities and don't face the consequences. As a result, they get suspended from one

department only to emerge in another part of the state. The sooner people are arrested and go to jail when found guilty, the sooner we will start dealing with crime as a country.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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