



**MINISTRY
PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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For Immediate Release

Minister Brown notes Public Protector's Report

Minister of Public Enterprises Lynne Brown has noted the finding of the Public Protector that she inadvertently violated the Executive Code of Ethics after being misled by Eskom.

The matter related to a Parliamentary Question in December 2016 on whether Eskom had paid any monies to Trillian Capital Partners.

According to the information the Minister received from Eskom in response to the question, signed off by the Chief Financial Officer on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, no payments were made. The Minister relayed this information to Parliament, but it subsequently emerged that Eskom had indeed made payments to Trillian.

The matter was reported to the Public Protector who found that Minister Brown had inadvertently misled Parliament.

"No evidence or information could be found or was submitted during the investigation that Minister Brown deliberately intended to mislead Parliament and the public with her written reply," the Public Protector said.

But by inadvertently conveying misleading information to Parliament, the Minister had violated the provisions of paragraph (2.3(a) of the Executive Ethics Code, and should be sanctioned by the President, the Public Protector said.

"When I became aware that senior Eskom officials deliberately misled me, I immediately informed Parliament's Ethics Committee and the Public Protector of the false information," Minister Brown said after receiving the Public Protector's report.

"I instructed Eskom's Board to take disciplinary action against those who conspired to mislead me, Parliament and the country.

“The standard practise of responding to Parliamentary Questions relating to operational matters at State-Owned Companies involves obtaining answers directly from the companies are signed off by the Chief Executive Officer and in this instance it was signed off by Anoj Singh on behalf of the CEO. This practise was introduced after previous Parliaments questioned the credibility of some answers to Parliamentary Questions.

“After the Eskom/Trillian incident I instructed the Department to strengthen oversight mechanisms to avoid a repeat,” said Minister Brown.

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