

# Transnet boss linked to smear campaign

Messages refer to TPNA boss Difeto as a prostitute

By **Bongani Mdakane**  
bongani@sundayworld.co.za

The suspended CEO of the Transnet Ports and National Authority (TPNA), Pepi Silinga is at the centre of an alleged smear campaign to discredit senior colleagues at the state-owned entity.

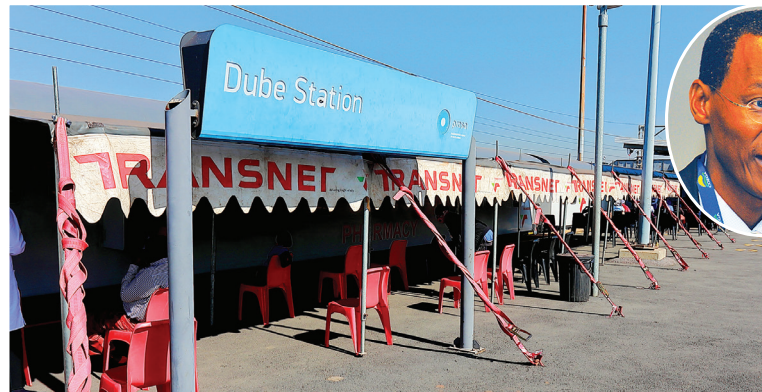
Silinga was suspended by the board of directors in March together with two other managers over allegations of awarding a R80-million tender to the service provider, but the amount later

ballooned to more than R300-million.

Since his suspension, Silinga has allegedly been working behind the scenes with officials aligned to him at Transnet to discredit and engineer the demise of the CEO and acting chief executive of TPNA.

In WhatsApp messages seen by *Sunday World*, which have been purportedly sent by Silinga, he called TPNA boss, advocate Phyllis Difeto a "prostitute".

In another disputed WhatsApp message in the group chat, he said Transnet CEO Michelle Phillips was appointed to the executive position by late public enterprises minister Pravin Gordhan, whom he called "Cha-



**Pepi Silinga, the suspended CEO of the Transnet Ports and National Authority denies working behind the scenes against Phyllis Difeto / Gallo Images**

ro" and President Cyril Ramaphosa because she is white.

Charo is a term often used derogatorily towards people of Indian descent.

In one impugned WhatsApp message, Silinga said he was going to get more information from officials who work at TPNA to discredit Difeto.

"I'm going to get more information from Menzi and I have also send (sic) an email with a whole lot of intelligence on that prostitute to Sue Albertyn (Transnet's HR general manager). That will either leak it or start her own investigation," reads one of the WhatsApp messages sent from Silinga's number.

On the other end, the person who is communicating with Silinga asks: "Which prostitute is this now? Phyllis?"

To which Silinga responded: "Yes, she is not listening at all and has started her own side investigation against some of my things and reversing them."

Silinga also wrote on

WhatsApp attacking Phillips, saying that despite being on suspension, he was "still very much in charge of Transnet".

"Michelle (Phillips) is as a placeholder, f\*\*k the union, they mean little nothing. No one there knows how to rescue this but me. I'm coming back and all this nonsense will stop. Michelle's record is dismal from get go, everywhere she has been, had to do with her skin colour and not competence. For that Charo (Gordhan) to have appointed her it's a disgrace and ridiculous at best and at worst.

"It showed both CR (Ramaphosa) and Pravin (Gordhan) wanted to run down Transnet in order to privatise it. There is no any other reason. That woman can't even lead cows to the dam, let alone a spaza shop," said Silinga in one of the messages.

Phillips and Difeto did not respond to questions sent directly to them.

Transnet group spokesperson Ayanda Shezi on the

**Pepi Silinga**

matter said: "Mr Silinga is best positioned to respond to comments attributed to him."

Silinga referred *Sunday World* to his lawyers Cowan-Harper-Madikizela Attorneys to respond to *Sunday World's* enquiry. However, the law firm sent our enquiry to Transnet lawyers Bowmans, who are also acting as investigators in Silinga's case.

"We have received the below email query from the *Sunday World* requesting our client's comments as they want to publish a story about, inter alia, his suspension.

"As you are aware, the allegations contained in the email query below are entirely false. We have made it unequivocally clear to Transnet that these allegations are false and without basis. As you are aware and based on the conditions of our client's suspension, he is prohibited from making any public statement, including responding directly to the *Sunday World*.

"Transnet is required to give *Sunday World* correct information or allow our client to respond," said Mbulelo Ndlovu of CHM.

In response to CHM, Khomotso Makapane of Bowmans said: "We have been instructed to inform you, as we hereby do, that your client has permission to respond to the *Sunday World* queries."

Ndlovu said that Silinga "categorically denies that he ever sent that WhatsApp message." Ndlovu said the "WhatsApp message purported to be sent from his private cellphone is a desperate attempt to tarnish his character.

"Our client has been made aware of attempts to hack and create a duplicate WhatsApp profile. It is this WhatsApp profile that seems to be used to send messages to various people, purporting to be coming from our client. Upon being informed of the WhatsApp messages that were in circulation, as his attorneys we formally advised Transnet, categorically confirming that our client has nothing to do with these WhatsApp messages and their disparaging and libellous (sic) content."

Ndlovu added that Silinga has reported the matter to the police saying a case was opened and provided a case number, she also questioned "why the alleged recipients of the WhatsApp messages remain unknown to assist with the discovery of the actual source, as the true properties of the source would be discoverable."

Silinga opened the criminal case at Walmer police station in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape in July. The Eastern Cape police spokesperson Siphokazi Mawisa acknowledged the receipt of our questions but said she was unable to respond because she did not have sufficient information about the case.

## DANNHAUSER MUNICIPALITY (KZ 254)

### RE-ADVERTISEMENT



Dannhauser Local Municipality (KZ 254) incorporating Hattingspruit and Durnacol with its seat at Dannhauser invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for the following positions:

REF NO : 06/11/2024/01

POSITION : DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

**SALARY** : Remuneration package payable in the context of Local Government: • Upper Limits of total remuneration packages payable to Municipal Managers and Managers directly accountable to Municipal Managers.

**TERM OF CONTRACT** : Permanent

**REQUIREMENTS** : A bachelor's degree in social science / public administration / law; or • equivalent. 5 years' relevant experience at middle management level in • Local government; and must have proven successful institutional • transformation in local government. Must meet the minimum • competency levels for senior managers. Registration with the South • African Council of Social Service Professionals (SACSSP) will be an • added advantage.

**COMPETENCIES** : The successful candidate must have the following: • Good knowledge and understanding of relevant policy and legislation; • Good knowledge and understanding of institutional governance • systems and performance management; Understanding of council • operations and delegations of powers, as well as; Health Service • management Cemetery management; Public safety which includes; and • Parks and recreation management; or similar recognised relevant • professional body; Computer literacy; A valid driver's licence.

**RESPONSIBILITIES** : • Overall management of the Community Services Department and its units namely: Disaster Management, Waste Management, Library and Social Services, Parks, Gardens and Sports, Public safety/ Law enforcement (Traffic) • Implement the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) as well as strategic goals of the Community Services Department. • Manage efficient provision of municipal services. • Establish, operate and maintain support structures, processes and systems. • Direct and control key deliverables and outcomes for the department. • Liaise with internal and external stakeholders. • Facilitate stakeholder participation and involvement. • Managing and ensuring productive utilization of personnel within the Community Services Directorate. • Responsible for Public Participation and Sukuma Sakhe. • Execute and other duties or functions that may be assigned by the Municipal Manager. • Developing and monitoring of the implementation of departmental policies and By-Laws. • Overall responsibility of implementing PMS within the Department.

REF NO : 06/11/2024/02

POSITION : DIRECTOR: CORPORATE SERVICES

**SALARY** : Remuneration package payable in the context of Local Government:

Upper limits of total remuneration packages payable to Municipal Managers and Managers directly accountable to Municipal Managers.

**TERM OF CONTRACT** : Permanent

**REQUIREMENTS** : Bachelor's Degree (NQF 7) in Public Administration/ Management Sciences/ Law; or equivalent. 5 years' experience at middle management level in Local government, must have proven successful management experience in administration and must meet the minimum competency levels for senior managers.

**COMPETENCIES** : The successful candidate must have the following:

Good knowledge and understanding of relevant policy and legislation; Good knowledge and understanding of institutional governance systems and performance management; Good knowledge of corporate support services, including: Human capital management; Legal services; Facilities management; Information communication technology and Council support; Good knowledge of supply chain management regulations and Preferential Procurement Policy; Good governance; Labour Relations Act and other related prescripts. Computer literacy. A valid driver's licence.

**RESPONSIBILITIES** : Overall management of the Corporate Services Department • Implement the Integrated Development Plan of the Corporate Services Department. • Manage Departmental budget, human resources and other resources in accordance with local government legislation and treasury regulations. • Manage efficient provision of municipal services • Establish, operate and maintain support structures, processes and systems. Direct and control key deliverables and outcomes for the department. • Liaise with internal and external stakeholders. • Facilitate stakeholder participation and involvement. • Developing and monitoring the implementation of the departmental policies and By-Laws. • Overall responsibility of implementing PMS within the Department. • Exercising any other functions allocated by the Municipal Council or Municipal Manager and develops and monitors systems, policies and processes to ensure correct working operations and practices. • Direct the development of human resource strategy in order to meet the vision and strategic objectives of the municipality. • Implement the strategic plan of the municipality through the effective development and monitoring of SDBIP. • Develop and monitor the implementation of policies. • Monitor the implementation of WSP, HR and EE Plan. • Ensure compliance with relevant labour legislation and SALGBC Agreements • Ensure efficient records management in terms of National Archives and Records. • Manage Council Committees and sub-committees. • Manage Municipal ICT.

**NOTE** : Qualifications and SA citizenship checks will be conducted on all short-listed candidates. Security vetting will be done. Successful candidates • will be subjected to additional checks including competency • assessment. It is the applicant's responsibility to have foreign • qualifications evaluated by the South African Qualifications Authority • (SAQA). The successful candidate will be required to sign an • employment contract before commencement of duty, a performance • agreement and disclosure of financial interest.

Applicants who applied before are encouraged to reapply.

**APPLICATIONS** : Applications should be made on the Annexure C Application Form for • Employment by regulations on appointments and conditions of • employment of Senior Managers, Government Gazette no. 37245 of 17th • January 2014, which may be obtained from the Municipal offices or • the municipal website www.dannhauser.gov.za • • Applications should be accompanied by a comprehensive Curriculum • Vitae and certified copies of all qualifications, valid Police Clearance Report • and quoting the relevant reference number, direct your application to: The • Acting Municipal Manager. Applications may be hand-delivered at No.08 • Church Street, Dannhauser 3080 or posted to Private Bag X1011, Dannhauser • 3080 or email: Hr@dannhauser.gov.za.

**PLEASE NOTE: NO FAXED OR E-MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

**CLOSING DATE** : 29 November 2024, at 12h00

**ENQUIRIES** : Enquiries may be directed to the Acting Municipal Manager, Mrs.L. P • Gcabashe at 034621 3080 or emailed to: • municipalmanager@dannhauser.gov.za

**MRS.L. P GCABASHE** - ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER

SW\_01081

## uMgungundlovu District Municipality

The uMgungundlovu District Municipality (UMDM), with its seat in Pietermaritzburg, invites suitably qualified candidates to fill the undermentioned Executive Manager position.

**Job Title** : HOD: Community Services (Permanent)

**Reference Number** : HR225/2024/2025

**Remuneration Package** : R1, 139 433 / R1, 340 509 / R1, 541 584 Per Annum

**Post Identity number** : MCD22CMS001

**Position Reports To** : Municipal Manager

**Minimum Qualifications/Requirements** : • Bachelor's degree in social sciences/ public administration/law; (NQF level 8 with a minimum of 120 credits) or equivalent • Minimum of 7 years relevant experience at middle management level of which at least 2 years' must be at senior management level. • Have proven successful institutional transformation within public or private sector • A valid driver's license is essential. • Computer literacy is essential • Knowledge of IsiZulu will be an added advantage.

**Core Managerial and Leading Skills and Competencies**: Good knowledge and understanding of relevant policy and legislation; Strategic capability and leadership; programme and project management; people management and empowerment, budget and financial management; governance systems; performance management; audit and risk management; change management; knowledge management; service delivery innovation, problem solving and analysis, client orientation and customer focus; communication; and honesty and integrity.

**Key Performance Areas**: The Executive Manager: Community Services, in support of the Municipal Manager and the Municipal Council, will be responsible for the following key performance and results areas: • Drive the vision, mission and strategic direction of the Department as articulated in the Integrated Development Plan of the Municipality. • Develop and implement business objectives, performance targets and operational efficacy of the Municipality in relation to Environmental Health, Disaster Management, Emergency Services, Social Services and Special Projects (Youth/Sports/Arts and Culture). • Set the tone of the Department regarding the organisation's ethics, code of conduct and values. • Provide leadership in the budgeting process guided by informed projections of revenues and expenditures, as well as oversee sound financial management and controls for the Department. • Develop, foster, maintain, and review key strategic relationships with key stakeholders. • Uphold an effective and reliable risk management and governance process and systems for the Department, including participation in the internal and external audit. • Ensure the maintenance of a monitoring and evaluation function and processes to monitor all activities, programmes and projects of the Department. • Ensure compliance and adherence to the applicable legislation, regulations, policies and rules impacting on local government.

Application forms are obtainable from the offices of uMgungundlovu District Municipality, 242 Langalibalele Street, Pietermaritzburg 3201 or UMDM Website (www.umdm.gov.za), by clicking the "about us, vacancies and following the link" Interested candidates should forward their application forms, together with comprehensive CVs and certified copies of their qualifications, to the attention of Dr. E.X. Muthwa, uMgungundlovu District Municipality, PO Box 3235, Pietermaritzburg 3200 or hand deliver at 242 Langalibalele Street, Pietermaritzburg 3201, **by no later than Thursday 28 November 2024 at 16h00 pm sharp.**

Late applications and applications by fax/email will not be considered. Enquiries should be directed to The Human Resources Unit, on (033) 897 6752/7007. Should you not have had any response from the Municipality within three months (3) after the closing date, kindly consider your applications as unsuccessful.

**People with disabilities and women are also encouraged to apply.**

The Council subscribes to an Affirmative Action Policy, which is non-discriminatory and based on merit. Canvassing of Councilors and Official will lead to candidates being disqualified and the Municipality reserves the right not to make an appointment

Please note that shortlisted candidates will be subjected to competency assessment; security vetting and their qualifications will be verified by SAQA (South African Qualification Authority)

**Dr. E.X. MUTHWA** - MUNICIPAL MANAGER

SW\_01079