



## SA beefs up protection for whistleblowers

President Cyril Ramaphosa says government is working on mechanisms to improve protection for those who blow the whistle on corruption. "We are working to capacitate the Witness Protection Unit and will introduce amendments to the Protected Disclosures Act and Witness Protection Act to strengthen protection for whistleblowers," he said on Thursday.

Delivering the State of the Nation Address at the Cape Town City Hall, President Ramaphosa said work is already underway to improve access to the witness protection programme for public servants who expose maladministration, corruption and unethical conduct. "We will finalise the draft Public Procurement Bill to address weaknesses identified by the State Capture Commission and improve efficiency, value for money and transparency.

"Our reinvigorated law enforcement agencies are taking firm action against companies and individuals alleged to have been involved in State capture," President Ramaphosa

said. President Ramaphosa said the National Prosecuting Authority Investigating Directorate, established in 2019, has taken 187 accused persons to court in 32 State capture and corruption cases. "Over R7 billion has so far been returned to the State from State capture cases. To date, R12.9 billion of funds and assets have been frozen. This year, the Investigating Directorate will be established as a permanent entity within the NPA," he said.

These efforts add to lend credence to the President's appointment in August 2022 of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council, which consists of people from across society who advise on suitable mechanisms to stem corruption, including an overhaul of the institutional architecture for combating corruption. President Ramaphosa said for the country to achieve any progress in addressing the urgent challenges it faces, there can be no compromise in building a capable and effective state.

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## Police request public assistance to locate missing women from Tshiame, Harrismith



Police are requesting public assistance in locating a #missing woman from Tshiame, Harrismith. She was reportedly last seen on Wednesday, 08 February 2023, by her boyfriend at about 06:00. It's alleged

that the missing woman, Zodwa Lydia Zwane was at home with their children.

The boyfriend came back home from work at about 18:00 and found the children alone in the house and when he asked their mother's whereabouts, they could not give an answer. According to them they found their mother not at home when they came back from school. She is originally from Monontsha Village in Qwaqwa. Any person who has any information on her whereabouts is urged to contact their nearest police station or Harrismith Detective at (058) 624-1600 or the Community Service Centre at (058) 624-1000.

## Second best district in education celebrates

The second best district in the Country, Fezile Dabi, held its District Well Done Function to celebrate its success in the Matric Class results of 2022 and also congratulate all the winners under the guidance of Dr. V.H Chuta. The function was held in Vredefort Ngwathe Local Municipality.

