

## Criminal case opened against North West health boss

A CRIMINAL case has been opened against head of the North West health department Dr Thabo Lekalakala, the Legislature's portfolio committee on health and social development said yesterday.

"I opened the case against the HOD, not against Premier (Supra Mahumapelo)," committee member Motlalepula

Rosho said. "It is a fraud and corruption case relating to the Buthelezi ambulance.

"This is according to the committee resolution that a case must be opened. It is a separate case; it is not related to Mediosa."

It was alleged that the health department had used ARV conditional grants to pro-

cure ambulances from private company Buthelezi.

The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) confirmed that they are investigating cases of fraud and corruption.

Police spokesperson Tlangeni Rikhotso said the Hawks received that case on Friday.

"We are in the process of

perusing the contents thereof. I will confirm that it is a fraud and corruption case.

"The parties concerned will not be revealed by us at this stage."

Lekalakala is facing another criminal case after it was alleged that Gupta-linked Mediosa was given a R30 million upfront payment

for a three-year contract by the province's health department without it going out to tender.

The Hawks raided Mahumapelo's office last week, seizing several documents relating to alleged maladministration, fraud and corruption with a monetary value estimated at R160m. – African News Agency (ANA)