



Parly committees talk tough

TNA REPORTER

THE Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) has been told to get its house in order as it was the one entity that could not fail because many South Africans relied on its services.

The caution was given at a transport portfolio committee meeting in Parliament yesterday.

The acting chairperson of the committee Sibusiso Radebe said: "The entity should deal decisively with all outstanding issues that the attorney-general highlighted including irregular expenditure, record keeping, filling of senior management vacancies, suspensions and contracts management.

"This is one entity that cannot afford (to fail) as a large portion of our population relies on the services Prasa subsidiaries offer."

Prasa chairperson Popo Molefe apologised for a comment he had made previously that the committee was interfering in the operations of the board.

In another portfolio committee meeting, the standing committee on public accounts declined to hear a delegation



CAUTIONED: Prasa chairperson Popo Molefe. PICTURE: SABC

from the South African Post Office owing to the absence of the chairperson and deputy chairperson of the entity.

In a briefing on the drought to the portfolio committee on agriculture, Land Bank CEO TP Nchocho said in a presentation that the Western Cape was

the one province in South Africa where dam levels had dropped to below 40%.

Nationally, dams in Gauteng were 83% full, followed by the Eastern Cape (73%), and the Northern Cape (64%).

On crop estimates, he said the maize crop would drop by 6 916 000 tons, thus making it necessary for 3.8 million tons to be imported.

He said the Land Bank had signed a loan agreement with the Industrial Development Corporation for a R400m loan to fund production rehabilitation, the restocking of livestock, working capital and operational expenses.

The loans will be given at 3% below prime. The loans will also help save at least 2 185 jobs, according to an IDC presentation.

In another committee meeting, the portfolio committee on international relations and cooperation congratulated President Jacob Zuma for his mediation efforts in Burundi.

Committee chairperson Siphosizwe Masango chairperson said: "Burundi's peace process is integral to the stability of the Great Lakes region as a whole."

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