

EMS boss finally suspended

By TIHAN VAN DER WALT

West Rand — "Innocent until proven guilty" is the City's feeling towards Emergency Management Services (EMS) head, Audrey Gule.

On 20 June, Gule, who had taken a month's sick leave, was formally suspended from her duties, following an investigation against her.

This investigation sprouts from several allegations, which include misuse of state funds, poor management and mistreatment of staff.

All is not too dull for Gule though, as her apparently R100 000 monthly salary is still being paid into her bank account.

Gule will be receiving her pay at home until the allegations against her are settled at the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA).

Gule caught the limelight when she was exposed by many unhappy EMS staff on *Carte Blanche* in May.



Head of EMS Audrey Gule has been suspended with pay. *File picture.*

Even to them (*Carte Blanche*), reaching Gule for comment was problematic. She has been on leave ever since and has been unavailable for comment. According to a source within the Democratic Alliance, an investigation of the allegations against Gule had been going on since the middle of last year. Apart from the investigation into alleged financial mismanagement, there are also reports of racism and mistreatment by management being under investigation.

During an on-air interview, the city's Gabu Tugwana announced that city manager, Mavela Dlamini, was also part of the investigation.

Taking over from Gule is acting EMS director of operations, Tshepo Makola.

"She is innocent until proven guilty, and labour (laws) would not allow us to suspend her pay until the matter is dealt with," says Tugwana.

During the EMS strike a few years ago, staff made it publicly known that they are unhappy with Gule in her position.