

Home Affairs ordered to issue birth certificate

The Public Protector's office has given interim Home Affairs DG Thulani Mavuso 14 days to reinstate the identity number of a child (4) born in Polokwane, Limpopo, and issue him with a birth certificate. [Weekend Argus](#) reports the latest directive from Busisiwe Mkhwebane's office follows findings that the department had improperly revoked the child's birth certificate and, consequently, his citizenship. **Mkhwebane found the department had failed to adhere to due process in terms of the Promotion of Access to Justice Act when it revoked the certificate.** She also found that the father and his child were improperly prejudiced by its conduct. The father – a South African citizen – had the child with a Zimbabwean national, who held a permanent residence permit when the child was born in December 2014. Mkhwebane found that – in terms of the Citizenship Act – the child had citizenship by virtue of his father being South African. Furthermore, she said in terms of the Births Act, there was no requirement that the father first undergo a paternity test to prove the child was his.