rincipal nay face fee] mis

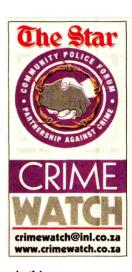
BRENDAN ROANE

brendan.roane@inl.co.za

CRIMINAL case has been opened Corruption .by Watch against an allegedly corrupt Soweto principal after it claimed the Department of Education failed to act.

The case involves the suspected misuse of R200 000 in school funds by the principal of Thubelihle Intermediate School in Soweto.

Nonzwakazi Usiba. Corruption Watch – a non-profit organisation opened a criminal case against Usiba last Thursday as it said the Gauteng



Department of Educa-tion was slow to take action in this case. "Corruption Watch is not aware of the status of any disciplinary action and the department has declined to comment substantively," the group said in its latest report concerning the school.

Department spokesman Gershwin Chuenyane

failed to respond to The Star's queries.

The criminal case has now been moved to the Commercial Crimes Unit in Joburg for further investigation, police spokeswoman Captain Fezile Malesa said.

Questions over misuse of the school's funds fol-lowed a forensic audit by Corruption Watch based on three years of financial records starting in 2009.

These included 41 cheques totalling R134 487 that were allegedly cashed by Usiba herself – some of which were detailed as "feeding for learners" – but Corruption Watch said there were no corresponding invoices and that it had handed the forensic audit over to the police.

"It's a particularly telling form of corruption because it's very easy to see who the victims are," said David Lewis, the director of Corruption Watch.

The other allegations Corruption Watch uncov ered included a R6 000 cheque made out to Star Grill and Buffet at Silverstar Casino which was detailed as a "deposit for learner farewell".

Another cheque of R18500 was made out to someone supposedly from a book publisher, but Corruption Watch said when they contacted the publishers, they had no knowledge of the individual or this payment. Another 10 cheques were made out to a former head of the school governing body for R41 059, for which Corruption Watch again said it could not find invoices

Efforts to reach Usiba for comment were unsuc-

cessful at the time of publication.

The alleged corruption at Thubelihle was just one of the many cases Corruption Watch was inves tigating across the country as it has been inundated with tip-offs which total more than 200 since January.

Corruption Watch has called on the public to report any corruption by going to the website vw.corruptionwatch.org.za e-mailing or info@corruptionwatch.org.za