

***STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, THABANG MAKWETLA, MP***

12/02/2019

The unfolding testimonies before the State Capture Commission are indeed a welcome relief. By its very nature and magnitude, the Zondo Commission must be celebrated as a reassurance that the foundation of our democracy is strong and dependable. Not even mature Western democracies have spectacles such as we are witnessing in the promotion of transparency in public affairs.

All those who believe in the devastation corruption can lead to, and its incompatibility with development and freedom, must do everything to ensure that the Zondo Commission succeeds. In this regard, we must all be vigilant to guard against any attempts to abuse or hijack this commission for other goals which it was not established for.

I have submitted a request to appear before the commission. I trust that this application will be granted. This is not because my name has been mentioned in the commission's proceedings. That is important, however, it has always been my conviction to make a modest contribution towards efforts to arrest the threat of a backward slide in our national transformation project. We have to combat corruption in all its manifestations if the dream of those who gave their lives generously for this country to be free, must not lie in ruins.

I wish to indicate that the evidence submitted before the commission that an electric fence and an alarm system were installed at my home by Bosasa is not new. I have previously responded to it, and will deal with it again when I appear before Justice Zondo on the date that I am granted audience.

END

Enquiries: Mr Ntime Skhosana 082 4966 875

See below September 2018 Media Statement

[02/13, 14:33] Logan Maistry: [02/13, 9:32 AM] Ntime Skhosana: PUBLIC STATEMENT

08-09-2018

Makwetla rebuts BOSASA insinuations

We wish to confirm that Deputy Minister Makwetla know the Watson brothers, including Mr Gavin Watson from the struggle days. Their anti-apartheid-establishment stance is legendary.

Upon his assumption of duties at the Ministry of Justice and Correctional, he was briefed by the branch Facilities about the industries and major enterprises which support Correctional Services. The department advised the Deputy Minister to familiarize himself with the services and technologies which the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), is utilizing to deliver on its mandate. In pursuance of this objective, as result, he visited the operations center of BOSASA in Krugersdorp with a delegation from DCS on invitation by BOSASA management. The Deputy Minister subsequently met BOSASA CEO, Mr Gavin Watson on several occasions.

"During the festive period of 2016, on the 5th of January to be exact, the Deputy Minister found his house burgled on his return from Cape Town. He was anxious to have it urgently secured, to reinstall an alarm system and to put up an electric fence. He could not get any security infrastructure company at the time to do the job, because they were still closed for holidays. Around the same time he had received a request for an urgent meeting from Gavin about his displeasure regarding how the Department was treating his company. When the Deputy Minister told him about the burglary problem at his house, he told him that his company also deals with domestic security and he could assist. To his relieve, he promised to dispatch a team immediately to attend to his problem. They agreed, but he asked him to send a quote first" clarified Makwetla

Mr Watson promptly did as he promised. However, to Makwetla's discomfort the team proceeded to install the security infrastructure without forwarding any quote, as agreed. When the Deputy Minister spoke to Gavin about it, he said he doesn't expect himself to charge the Deputy Minister as a comrade for assistance that he can afford to offer without incurring any significant costs. Makwetla immediately disagreed with him for the obvious reason that perceptions of conflict of interest would be difficult to dispel because his company was doing business with DCS.

In the interest of transparency, the Deputy Minister expected Mr. Watson to appreciate the implications without much persuasion, that this was not about his generosity of spirit. Makwetla pleaded with Mr Watson, not once, not twice, not thrice, but continuously ever since, Mr Watson has simply, flatly refused to send him the bill for the job. This has been a source of serious frustration to the Deputy Minister. In the intervening period, the camera system which was installed had to be removed because it had glitches from day one. Makwetla opted to get another company to install cameras.

For the cost of the electric fence and alarm system please contact Mr Watson for details.

Naturally, There is no reason why this job would have been a subject of a confidential discussion by any persons in BOSASA, be they employees or managers. Any

suggestion that this job was treated differently concerns us and it is a matter we view in a serious light.

"Any member of BOSASA who seeks to use my name to lend credence to their claim in the internal feud at the company, will at the end be exposed for their unethical practices and immoral aims" emphasised Makwetla

"I wish to assure the hard working tax-payers of this country that I am not guilty of any wrong doing for the entire period during which I have been the Deputy-Minister of our Correctional Services. I have not sort to communicate nor influence, not once, anyone of the department's officials who serve on the structures of DCS supply-chain environment." He added

"To ensure that the interests of the broad public are protected at all times, I undertake to approach the office of the Public Protector to investigate all tenders issued to BOSASA and any other big enterprise during my term in the ministry, and to interview all the officials who where involved in adjudicating these tenders as to whether they ever had any individual discussions of their work with me at anytime during these processes" he said

We reject with contempt, insinuations that the Deputy Minister has conducted himself in any manner that sort to violate the precepts of promoting a clean, transparent, accountable and equitable governance in our administration.

End of statement.

Issued by the Office of the Deputy Minister of Justice and Correctional Services

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[02/13, 9:55 AM] Mbalenhle DCS PA: *STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY
MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, THABANG
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