

JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CRIMINALITY,
POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND CORRUPTION IN THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

HELD AT

BRIGITTE MABANDLA JUSTICE COLLEGE

28 NOVEMBER 2025

DAY 40



PROCEEDINGS ON 28 NOVEMBER 2025

CHAIRPERSON: Good morning, Ms Pooe.

ADV POOE: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Commissioners. This morning, Commissioners, we will commence with the evidence of General Hilda Khosi Senthumule. The witness, Chair, is ready to be sworn in and has indicated that she will be taking the oath.

CHAIRPERSON: I could tell from the end of the General's statement that she will be swearing. Just a minute. Good
10 morning, General.

WITNESS: Good morning, Commissioner. [Vernacular].

WITNESS: [Vernacular]... Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: Do you swear that the evidence you are going to give is the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth? If so, please raise your right hand and say, so help me God.

WITNESS: So help me God.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

WITNESS: Thank you.

20 **HILDA KHOSI SENTHUMULE:** (duly sworn states)

EXAMINATION BY ADV POOE: General, can you confirm that in front of you, you have two files?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I confirm.

ADV POOE: And in the first file, there is a statement.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV POOE: Can you confirm, if you go into the file with the statement at page 26, can you confirm that that is your signature at the end of the statement?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, it is my signature. Thank you.

ADV POOE: And, General, can you confirm the correctness of the contents of the statement?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It is correct. I have verified, thank you.

10 **ADV POOE**: And lastly, General, can you confirm that this is a statement that you have prepared for purposes of giving testimony before this Commission?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I can confirm that as well. Thank you.

ADV POOE: Thank you. General, can you start by just telling the Commissioners what your rank is and the position that you currently hold?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay. Sorry, Commissioners. I am Hilda Khosi Mavimbela [?] Senthumule, and I am
20 currently holding the position of Lt-Gen within the SAPS.

ADV POOE: And which position are you holding?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Currently, I am the Acting Deputy National Commissioner, but in my appointed position, I am the Divisional Commissioner for Detective and Forensic Services.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. Prior to dealing with your tenure within SAPS, can you give a brief overview of your experience prior to joining SAPS?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Prior to joining the police, I actually was appointed in State Security agency, then in the late 90s. And I actually started my career as an investigator, junior investigator within Counterintelligence, particularly vetting investigations. And I moved on to become an analyst, and I became a trainer. I grew up in
10 ranks within State Security, and I became the Component Head for Domestic Intelligence Collection in the province of Northern Cape.

I also occupied the position of Component Head, Counterintelligence investigations still in the Northern Cape province. I was subsequently requested by the then DG, Mr Manzini, God rest his soul, who passed, to come and head IS32 within the National Head Office of State Security, where I was responsible for ensuring that our members who are coming into the State Security are beyond reproach. So
20 I will do those Counterintelligence investigations.

I think in 2008, I was given three offers, one for Counterintelligence outside the State Security, Personal Security Vetting Investigations, and also of NICOC and the police. I first chose NICOC, and I went to NICOC. I stayed there for a while, realising that it was just too academic,

and I was bound to sit behind the desk. I felt uncomfortable. Then I opted to join the police. That was in 2008.

ADV KHUMALO SC: General, excuse my ignorance. Good morning.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Good morning, good morning, Commissioner.

ADV KHUMALO SC: What is NICOC?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: NICOC is the National
10 Intelligence Coordinating Committee. That is the structure that coordinates all intelligence services and also provides the country with estimates of what is likely to happen in terms of threats to our security.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And then after you joined in 2008, when you joined SAPS, which position did you assume? And can you briefly go through your trajectory within the SAPS?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I must say that joining SAPS, I joined as a lateral entry, and I was already at a director
20 level. It was before the ranks were actually altered to the military ranks. So I became a director for Counterterrorism. And that structure was responsible for both right-wing extremism as well as Islamic extremism investigations. If I may proceed?

ADV POOE: Yes, General.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Ja. I think people told to my appointment as the Section Head for Counterterrorism, it was just before the World Cup, and I think it was the time General Cele came into the SAPS as well. So we worked, I think I was one of the two junior members who were part of that committee, where we were providing security updates and appraisals in terms of Counterterrorism to the SAPS World Cup Committee.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And then in 2012, you
10 talked to further positions that you occupied.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Ja. I think before we go into 2012, in 2010, just after the World Cup, I was appointed as the first Head of Organised Crime for DPCI. I stayed in DPCI for a year, and I was subsequently redeployed to Crime Intelligence, where I became the Component Head for Counter and Security intelligence.

An opportunity arose, I think, when there were changes in Crime Intelligence. I then became the Head of labour relations. For the first time in my life, I was in HR,
20 and I became the State Chief Negotiator, a position that I enjoyed because it actually broadened my scope of understanding management and issues that touches the conditions of service of members.

And just maybe to move on, in 2014, I became the Component Head for Leadership, Management, and

Development within Division HRD, where I was responsible for all SAPS leadership training.

ADV POOE: General, can you then speak to your appointment in 2016 that ultimately then resulted in your 2021 appointment as the Divisional Commissioner?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: When General Phahlane was appointed as Acting National Commissioner, he redeployed me to detectives, where I was, again, the first Head of Organised Crime investigations, which was just
10 reintroduced within SAPS. And I occupied that position until I was appointed the Divisional Commissioner, Detective and Forensic Services in 2021.

CHAIRPERSON: Just at that point, I am not going to interrupt you much. But I just want to ask you, you may even take notes if you have something to write with and on. I want you to apply your mind and right at the end, I will raise these issues that I want you to note. I assume that as the Divisional Commissioner for Detective and Forensic Services that the laboratories, forensic laboratories, fall
20 under your mandate. Is that a correct assumption?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It is correct, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Now, I want you to tell us, right at the end when I raise this again, if you have identified the causes of the delays with the tests conducted at the laboratory. And if you have, what are the causes of the

delays? And secondly, on my understanding, the delays have existed for a very long time. Is that correct? And then again, why was this situation allowed to last for as long as it has? And then, have you applied your mind to solutions to the problems? And if you have, what solutions have you come up with and how soon can those be implemented? Sorry for interrupting the flow, General and Ms Pooe. As I say, that is for later, right at the end.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Noted, Commissioner.

10 **ADV POOE**: Thank you, Chair. General ...[intervenes].

CHAIRPERSON: And perhaps I should specifically refer to ABIS in this context. One of the witnesses, I forget his name.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Brigadier Nkabinde.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes, yes, yes, him. My understanding of his evidence was that the ABIS system is not used optimally. Can you please address that as well, address it specifically, and also tell us what your ideas on improvements, such that this gets used optimally, what your
20 thoughts are in that regard. Thank you. Yes, Ms Pooe.

ADV POOE: Thank you, Chair. General, if we could then move to paragraph 5 of your statement, where you just set out various roles and institutions that you play a part in. Can you just give a brief summary of those?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I will start by reflecting on things

that we have achieved as an organisation, where I played a role in terms of leadership. And I think one of those touches on the question that the Chairperson has asked, that I address at the end of my statement or of my delivery. I played a role in the expansion of the Gqeberha Forensic Science Laboratory, which actually was only exclusively dealing with ballistics as well as scientific analysis and chemistry.

10 So we expanded this lab to cover the DNA analysis as part of us trying to address the issues of the rising exhibits of DNA and also making sure that we have a good turnaround time for us to be able to provide the courts with the evidence as required. This was a Presidential project. And I must say that the plan is to expand the particular FSL footprint throughout the country.

I also championed a number of projects for the Divisional Commissioner where we are expanding and increasing resources, particularly in the division Detective and Forensic Services. I am also a co-chairperson of the
20 SAPS and BACSA business participative partnership, where we are looking at pioneering a digitised police station And basically, we are looking at improving police stations to be able to deliver services as well as reduce the overload of people going in to ask for diverse services. So we are working on that model. And I think I will touch on it, Chair,

when I respond to what are we doing as interventions to address the delays in terms of forensic material to courts.

Further, I am also a project manager for the IAWP, which I actually led successfully in 2013. I am sorry, I think I was the project manager for the inaugural first ever IAWP conference in South Africa. I think for Commissioner Khumalo, just not to confuse you with my acronyms, IAWP, it is the International Association for Women Police, a structure that has existed for more than 100 years. And
10 also, I became its coordinator in the SADC region. And at some point, I was also for two terms, a board member for POLMED, where we were responsible for taking care of the members' health care as well as emotional and mental wellness needs.

Then currently, I am also the director for CID. CID, I think we all know it means Criminal Investigations Division for South Africa in the region, meaning that also I serve on the permanent subcommittee of the police chiefs, which will be the SUBCO Body of the region. I am also, I think, lastly,
20 Chair, I am the co-chairperson of the Trilateral Planning Cell. That is a structure that the Ministers initiated to look at your countering narcotics in the region. And this particular planning cell covers three countries, that is South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania. Although now we have invited a number of countries, including Angola, Lesotho,

Swaziland, to be part of the TPC, as we call it. Thank you.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General.

ADV BALOYI SC: General, you have that 5.2. What is that organisation? What does it do?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay. The Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation, this is a structure or a Body that actually brings all the police chiefs in the region and they coordinate on issues of crime in the region, particularly your either cross-border crimes or
10 transnational organised crime. So the National Commissioner would be the chairperson for the country. However, the chairperson rotates. I think currently it is sitting with Malawi. Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV POOE: General, if you could then move to the key roles and responsibilities of your division with a particular focus on the units that you oversee?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay. Chairperson, under my leadership, I actually have eight components that I am leading, starting with your Crime Investigation Service,
20 Serious Violent Crime Investigations, Organised Crime Investigations, Commercial Crime Investigations. Also from the detectives, lastly, will be the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences. If I move to Forensic, I am also responsible for Criminal Records and Crime Scene Management, Forensic Science Laboratories, as well as

Quality Management component.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And as you indicated, you are currently the acting DNC in Crime Detection. What are your responsibilities there?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay. My responsibility entails providing oversight as well as strategic direction to three or for three critical investigation programmes within the SAPS, or let me say the Crime Detection Business Value Chain, that will be Crime Intelligence, Detective Services and
10 Forensic Services.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. We are now going to move on to the topic of disbandment of the PKTT. And to begin with, you explained that in December 2024, you were actually deployed to the Western Cape. Can you explain the deployment, the purpose of the deployment and when you then returned back to the head office?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commissioners. As part of protocols and as a requirement, all senior officers in the SAPS are deployed in support of provinces during the
20 festive season. And the rationale is for us to monitor and oversee police operations in that particular area where you are deployed. So, I was deployed in the Western Cape in support of General Patekile, who is the PC for Western Cape.

And that would mean also doing your field – how

can I call it? We also go to the field where we do stop and searches, we do roadblocks, you know. We make sure that there is visibility in the province, as well as we also assist the members and guide them in terms of doing your checking and also tracing of wanted suspects.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And when did you then return to head office?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I returned back to head office on the 3rd of January. However, I already had submitted my
10 pre-planned leave that took place from the 6th, returning back to work on the 17th of January 2025.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. You then say on your return to work, you had an informal discussion with Lt-Gen Khumalo. Can you tell the Commission about that interaction and what you were discussing?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Maybe before I start, I want to provide context in terms of my relationship with General Khumalo.

ADV POOE: Yes.

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: And I know that this maybe also will touch on Commissioner Khumalo. I actually grew up Khosi Khumalo, and that is my father's surname. However, when I went to high school, when I was doing standard eight at the time, I wanted to honour my grandfather who raised me, and that is a Mavimbela. So literally, I changed my

surname back to Mavimbela, and I became Khosi Mavimbela. So me and Dumisani Khumalo, Lt-Gen Khumalo, we call each other ...[vernacular]. So ...[vernacular].

And normally, we do not ever have a serious, intense interaction. I mean, even with all these challenges, we do not have like, hey, come sit down, it is still ...[vernacular] and it is still ...[vernacular]. So as I came back from leave, we meet, I cannot remember where, but it
10 was in one of the meetings. And then, and he said to me ...[vernacular] PKTT, just like that. And we ...[vernacular]. Then he says to me no, no ...[vernacular] is a directive that those dockets should come to the detectives.

[Vernacular]... he says no, he gave him that instruction in writing. So I then said to General Khumalo, unfortunately ...[vernacular]. When you instruct me, it must be in writing. And I think the discussion did not go further. But also, what prompted my mind at the time was Khumalo has been the project coordinator of this task team from
20 2018.

And I was there. I think when the meeting was called by Minister Cele, we were all invited. I think it was myself, General Ramatswele. Ramatswele was the Section Head for, at the time, it was called Specific Crimes. Now it is called Serious Violent Crimes. It was me, him, it was

General Tsumane was the DNC at the time. General Mosikili was the Divisional Commissioner at the time. So we were all invited to that meeting that took place in General Mkhwanazi's office, and he was the acting provincial Commissioner.

So he was not telling me something that I did not know, because I would have prompted to understand what are you talking about. So I knew. And as far as I knew, he was doing well. When Minister Cele came and General
10 Khumalo was appointed as the Head of CI, I think a decision was taken that he actually proceeds with that role, and all of us supported it.

So there was no way that now I could come and say, now bring me the documents. I need to understand why. And for me, it was not in writing. So I could not act on it. And by the way, I think the Commissioner spoke about *mabaribari* [?]. I did not want to rely on *mabaribari*. I wanted something I could read. Thank you, Commissioners.

CHAIRPERSON: General, somewhere in your statement
20 you mentioned the reason why the dockets had to come to head office.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON: And on that, you take issue, if I understand correctly, with a reason that was given by General Motsepe.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON: Do I understand the position correctly?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes. What I am not sure comes out clearly from your statement is whether you personally were told what that reason was and who, if you were told, the person that told you was, and at what stage?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: To ...[indistinct].

CHAIRPERSON: Why must the dockets come to head
10 office?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON: Who told you and at what stage?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Nobody told me and Khumalo that the dockets must come to Pretoria. The letters – okay, eventually I got my letter on the 2nd of February. And I think just after that, the Minister called a meeting in Cape Town where he basically, I think it was an orientation meeting where we had to present to him specific topics. And I think mine was on the capacitation of the detectives.

20 And unfortunately, lo and behold, on the 6th of February, my nephew Thato was fatally wounded and I had to return home on the day because I could not cope. So, for that reason, I think I took leave to be able to assist my family in making sure that Thato gets to rest appropriately. On returning, now Khumalo and I, we both had instructions

that said, you, General Khumalo, in your capacity as the project manager for the PKTT, hand over the dockets to General Senthumule, who is the Divisional Commissioner for Detective and Forensic Services.

And I think the instructions were clear because if you look at it, it actually stated how the handover should take place. So, Khumalo and I, he already had, I think, the National Commissioner's letter, which I never had view of. I relied on him when he said to me, the NAT-COM had
10 already written to the Minister to provide a winding down approach proposal for his approval, for the Minister's approval.

CHAIRPERSON: And your February letter was from General Sibiya?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: General Sibiya, yes.

CHAIRPERSON: And it said nothing about the reason for the dockets to be brought to head office?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Maybe if the Chairperson could allow me to read into the record?

20 **CHAIRPERSON:** Yes, yes.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you. I think it should be on the other bundle HKS2. Okay. The letter read as such:

“The South African Police Service established the National Task Team on political killings to address the

concerning rise in politically motivated murders and related crimes involving political figures. This specialised task team was dedicated to investigating, resolving and preventing such incidents to ensure justice and maintain political stability in affected regions. On 31 December 2024, the Minister of Police issued a directive to the National Commissioner to immediately deactivate and disband the NTPK.”

Which we call the PKTT. And he said in his letter:

“This decision was informed by an assessment that the task team no longer significantly contributed to policing efforts.”

So that is the only reason provided, that it no longer significantly contributed to policing efforts. But for me, that is the only reason that I know. And I think coming from intelligence and compartmentalisation, that is all that I read on the instruction.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, General.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Chair.

ADV KHUMALO SC: General, maybe while you are on the letter, can you please read paragraph 5 into the record?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay:

“In compliance with the aforementioned directive of the Minister of Police, you are directed...”

Which is an instruction with steps, if you look at what it means:

10 “...to engage with the Divisional Commissioner of Crime Intelligence with a view to do a proper handing over and to follow all processes to conduct a handing over process. And this includes, but not limited to, a report of all cases in terms of their status, a case register wherein all the cases were recorded and the current status of court-going cases and cases under investigation. All cases or projects, documentation relevant to the Political Killings Task Team, the PKTT, these

20 should include all evidentiary material, documents, electronic recordings, et cetera. It must be booked into the SAPS13 or in possession of the team or stored in any storage facility. All human and physical resources are

located, listed as well as a report on all financial expenditure for the duration of the operations of the task team.”

That ends paragraph 5, Commissioner.

ADV BALOYI SC: General, that 5.3, in short, is that a reference to the dockets? Is this where the instruction says you must take over ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, as in 5.3 – can I say, actually, all of them except for number 5.4, they refer to
10 dockets.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Because General Khumalo had to provide me with the state of where those investigations were, which he did, I think in the plan that we developed.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay, thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, thank you.

ADV BALOYI SC: Ms Pooe, I would like to ask something about paragraph 6, but if you are still going to deal with the letter. If you are planning to deal with the letter in your own
20 way, I would rather leave it to that point.

ADV POOE: Commissioner Baloyi, I was going to proceed chronologically from where we are. So if we want to deal with paragraph 6 ...[intervenes].

ADV BALOYI SC: I am happy to postpone it.

ADV POOE: Okay ...[indistinct].

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay. All right. All right, thank you. General, in that paragraph 6, which you have not read, and I will read it, it says:

“It is advised that the Divisional Commissioner, Detective and Forensic Services...”

That is you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay:

10 “...ensures that the case/investigations are taken care of to ensure that cases are not kept, are not lost in court because of the deactivation and disbandment of the task team.”

I want to just understand how it works. You are at National.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: The PKK, PKTT ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: PKTT.

ADV BALOYI SC: Dockets are kept ...[intervenes].

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** Are in KwaZulu-Natal.

ADV BALOYI SC: Yes.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: Ordinarily, how would it work? You are now being told you must ensure cases. What does it mean practically you would do? And does this reflect, this kind of

instruction, how ordinarily you would engage with provincial dockets or was this something out of the norm, your involvement here as in paragraph 6?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: If I may clarify, Chairperson or Commissioner, and I will take you back to 2018 when the team was established. The team, though based in the province, was a national task team. That is why General Ramatswele was the first project manager and General Maqashalala. And General Maqashalala moved to the
10 Western Cape and General Ramatswele retired. General Khumalo was appointed when he got promoted to level 14 General or to ...[indistinct] General.

So he was running a national project. That is why even the budgeting would come from National. That is why even the reporting will include all of us. So in essence, what General Sibiya meant here was that I take over as the project manager. That is the understanding.

ADV BALOYI SC: So you would take over from General Khumalo?

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: That is what it would mean.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: That is what actually he requested.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: And maybe just over and above

what he wrote, it is also what he said that General Khumalo was in Crime Intelligence and therefore that the investigations belong to Detectives.

ADV BALOYI SC: Sure.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON: And what is the significance of “advised” as opposed to, for example, instructed?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: The instruction is already given. So you are already instructed. And he gave probably a
10 framework of how this instruction should be executed. Now he says over and above what you are going to do, you must make sure that chain of custody documentation related to the dockets but also court processes do not get interfered with. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

ADV POOE: General, just to take a step back, you were still in January when you note at paragraph 16 that General Sibiya also followed up after your conversation with General Khumalo about whether or not you are going to get the
20 dockets. Can you explain that interaction?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you very much, Commissioners. Still in January, and I must say, Commissioners, I do not remember the date. We were in his office. Normally, he would call meetings in the morning. And I think post that meeting, then he asked me if I had

engaged with General Khumalo on the handover of the PKTT dockets.

My response to him was that General Khumalo has spoken to me. I did not take the matter forward because he at least had something in writing. I did not. So I could not go ahead with the instruction. And therefore, if he wanted me to proceed with that instruction, he had to reduce it into writing or in writing.

ADV POOE: And, General, just to confirm, at this stage
10 you had not been furnished with the directive that the Minister issued in December?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: To date, I have actually not laid my hands on that directive.

ADV BALOYI SC: Can I just go back a bit? So when you meet, when you first encounter General Khumalo on your return to work in January, was that the first time that you became aware of this decision, or someone spoke to you? Maybe let me be more specific. Had someone said anything to you about this decision of the disbandment?

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** Ja. You know, I think after the July 6th press briefing by General Mkhwanazi, I realised that actually, I have never even seen this writing. Not on social media, I do not think I came across it. Nobody even showed it to me. So when it happened, I think maybe it is because the critical two weeks, I was not on duty. Maybe if

I was, I would have been maybe made aware, either by General Sibiyi himself, but no copy was ever shared. And it was actually for the first time that I heard from General Khumalo that the team was being disbanded. And again, it did not provide reasons. Like I said, it was just ...[vernacular]. For me, that was just, ja. In jest, actually. Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: And before, we know the decision was communicated, at least on the 31st of December. At any
10 point before this discussion with General Khumalo, so I am going back even to 2024, had you ever become aware of an intention or a conversation to disband the PKTT?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No. No, Chair.

ADV BALOYI SC: And if there was such consideration, or even discussion, by virtue of your position, and please explain a bit if you are able to, would you have expected to have been part of that conversation?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I think in actual – I am covering this later in the statement, but maybe let me say it was
20 business unusual, where you just have a decision like that, to say disband the structure. Normally, what would happen, we actually would be called into a meeting where all the teams, we have got a number of intervention teams throughout the country, and then we manage those through the structure called NCCF. And they then ...[vernacular] the

Chairperson, so they would come provide progress report and we assess whether the intervention is working or not.

And I think it is in that meeting where then, whether it is General Mosikili or the Divisional Commission can say we then can start decommissioning the team. So not only myself, Crime Intelligence will be there, Visible Policing will be there, Forensic Services will be there, because we all deploy our capacities in support of the team.

ADV BALOYI SC: Thank you.

10 **ADV POOE**: And, General, just to go back into – you noted that you also attended some of the IMC meetings, where feedback was given on the performance of the task team. What were your observations of the performance?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: In the police, we have what we call a five pillar approach, when we do interventions. That means mobilisation of all your competencies through intelligence. You have got your proactive. Number three is combat. So that will be your TRT, national intervention and task force, if it is required, or POP. And we also have
20 number four, that is the detectives and the MTA within that pillar. Then number five will be communication.

So General Khumalo went over and above that concept. He actually, in my assessment, established a one-stop shop, where you get everything under one roof. So I had to deploy, for example, ballistics experts in that team

that were not sitting at forensic, were sitting actually with the team. So that when they are, I mean, firearms recovered, or actually any material relating to a firearm, they would immediately process that.

But also he had members who, like the DFOs, who would do inspections on firearms. I remember in one of the successes where a consignment of firearms was discovered from a dealer and not all of them were registered, and some of them were linked to crime. So in my assessment, it was
10 the best practice.

I even asked him to say ...[vernacular] this operational approach in terms of now what they used as a framework to assess the progress. So it was working. And in the last IMC that I attended, 2022, if my memory serves me correct, because really I think some of the dates, as you grow older, you lose them. In that meeting, it was mentioned that the team should be strengthened and enhanced, particularly because of its effectiveness. And also it was said that the team should continue.

20 **ADV POOE**: Thank you, General.

ADV KHUMALO SC: Can I just ask a follow-up question, Advocate Pooe?

ADV POOE: Yes.

ADV KHUMALO SC: I am going to take the General back. Commissioner Baloyi asked you about whether in the normal

course you should have been involved in the discussion leading to the disbandment.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV KHUMALO SC: I want to focus on the after, because in paragraph 9.7 of your statement, you say as part of your role, you are responsible for liaison and collaboration with other stakeholders, including the NPA. Now, there is this letter of February 2025. You are aware of the disbandment, but you say you were not given the disbandment directive.

10 Would it have been your role then to notify the NPA in KZN that, listen, the PKTT has been disbanded, there is an instruction to take the dockets and reallocate them to detectives, please note that the structure you had in place is no longer going to work, this is now the new structure that is going to be in place? Would that have been part of your responsibilities?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Let me start responding to you by saying that this was business unusual because we do have monthly meetings, for example, with the DPP of KwaZulu-
20 Natal, not only on PKTT, but also we have got extortions, committees, we have got CITs. So, in those meetings, if I co-chair, then it is my role to then say to the team, we have, not just the NPA, to everybody who is part of the team, to say we have a new directive and this requires that maybe we review our way of moving forward.

I do not think here, for me, things happen for status. General Mkhwanazi should have been the first person to be notified. People have got a misnomer in their minds ...[intervenes].

ADV KHUMALO SC: Sorry to interrupt you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV KHUMALO SC: General Mkhwanazi should have been the first person to be notified.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: To be notified.

10 **ADV KHUMALO SC:** About the disbandment?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV KHUMALO SC: Okay, continue from there.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, because – and I hear people throwing this, you are the custodian of the detectives or the dockers. The Provincial Commissioner is empowered by the Act to look at all issues, crime in the province. When we work at National, we work in conjunction with the province. General Mkhwanazi, because he and General Khumalo were responsible, if you look at the minutes, they were the ones
20 reporting on the progress of the PKTT, not the Divisional Commissioner, not General Khumalo in his capacity as the Divisional Commissioner for Crime Intelligence.

So, General Mkhwanazi would have been, as the Chairperson for the province, engaged with the DPP as they do even currently. So, to answer your question, it would

not have been in my position to actually inform all the role players of the disbandment.

CHAIRPERSON: Do not forget your point about the misnomer. You had just started saying something about a misnomer.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, and no, no, it is about – you know, and I remember, I will not mention the General, who went on TV and said the dockets are mine, and I think that is why we are here where we are today. At National, we do
10 not own the dockets. The dockets belong to a province, and the Provincial Commissioner, if I were to use the last sort of the Kasi language, he is the last number of the province. I deal with General Mthombeni about dockets, General from Limpopo, General Radebe. I just do not decide, I engage with them because they are the people who are accountable for the stations and the workload of the stations.

ADV POOE: And, General, so now we are in February, you have already talked about ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Sorry, sorry, just to go back to – I
20 think just to satisfy the Chairperson. So, this notion that you are the custodian of the dockets, maybe of the systems of managing the dockets, because in my role I need to be able to provide the National Commissioner with the picture of the detective performance at national. For example, are we resolving on murder? Are we resolving on hijackings? I

own the system.

So, I am able to extract data that can give patterns. Let us say in Gauteng, we know that Gauteng actually holds the bulk of our crime. If I look at hijackings, if it is rape, then I know that we need to intervene in Gauteng. So, that is my role. Not that I can call dockets in. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, General.

ADV BALOYI SC: So ...[intervenes].

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** Not that it is not permitted, but actually it must be done in conjunction with the Provincial Commissioner.

ADV BALOYI SC: So, whoever may have told Mr Mogotsi, whoever the SAPS may have told Mr Brown Mogotsi, that the dockets are going to General Sibiya because they belong to him, would have misled him, if anyone told him that at all. They would not have been correct from ...[intervenes].

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** I am tempted to answer the Commissioner, but I think my response would be in this manner. You can read between the lines, I submit. Thank you.

ADV BALOYI SC: I shall not ask you what you mean.

ADV KHUMALO SC: General, sorry, I need you to clarify something. As I understand what you are saying, there is a

difference between the overall responsibility for dockets and physical custody of an individual docket or a group of dockets. Can you just clarify that for me so that I understand the difference between the two?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Let me, the structure for Detectives is as follows, okay? You have the DNC, you have the Divisional Commissioner, you have the Component Heads, but to the DNC or the DIV-COM, you have got a dotted line with the Deputy Provincial Commissioners. The
10 DPCs are responsible, because they report to the PCs for the dockets in the province.

At National, if I were to, because I report on all dockets, even your high profile, at National, then that would be the Divisional Commissioner. But the PCs in the respective provinces have an authority based on the Constitution to actually deal with, even when you look at our directives, it talks about the Station Commander, not a Component Head at National, responsible for the safeguarding, safekeeping of dockets.

20 So in that manner, I am trying to say, at National, much as we do have that leeway because we are at National, but we can never do anything on dockets without involving the province. If there is a complaint that is submitted on an investigation that is not probably done properly, or the family is not getting joy, we get involved.

And if they say they would like the docket to be moved to DPCI, that is my role.

I engage the PC, we write and say this docket will then be moved to the DPCI after engaging either General Mbotho or General Nkosi. I think for me, that needs to be clarified, because this is where again, Chair, the misnomer is happening, or actually is.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. We are now in February, and you have explained that you received the letter from
10 General Sibiya, and you were also preparing for the Ministers' meeting that was called in Cape Town. Before we talk more about sort of the interactions that you had in the execution of the letter, can you touch on sort of your relationship and the status of your relationship at the time with General Sibiya?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Ja, we had a very cordial relationship. Cordial in a sense that we have to work together, and I think we both realised that we have to work together. And I will not say it was one of the best
20 relationships, because it is a touch-and-go. Today, you could be on these good books. Tomorrow, for no reason, you could be in these bad books. So for me, it was a touch-and-go relationship, but we had to acknowledge that we had to work together. I already was aware that him and Khumalo were not doing well. Our programme, in totality,

was struggling in terms of performance. So as leadership, we had to be able to work together.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. You then left the meeting in Cape Town. Did you ever get feedback about ...[intervenes].

ADV BALOYI SC: Sorry. Can I, before you discuss the Cape Town meeting? In paragraph 17, General, the very last sentence where you comment about this letter that we have just looked at.

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: You say:

“According to the DNC's letter, this decision was based on an assessment which concluded that the PKTT no longer made a significant contribution to the broader policing efforts.”

Can I please ask you to comment on that, your view, whether you agreed with the view on your observation as Divisional Head about that point, about the impact of the
20 PKTT and whether, in your view, it had run its course?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I do not think any team that is relevant will ever run its course. And I do not believe that you have to change something that works because maybe it does not work for you. For me, the directive, I was not favoured with that assessment that was conducted and I

was not aware if there was an assessment that was conducted, and I did not ask.

Maybe a shortfall on my side, but I took it that maybe definitely they did a study. If Khumalo is saying he is bringing the pockets, maybe there was something in writing that said, indeed, maybe the workload has reduced or maybe there was something that said the team actually could be, either maybe the detectives must go back to their detectives and all the combat members must go back to
10 their environments.

So my understanding of this was based on what I saw. However, knowing what I know, remember this team has been running over a period of time. So I was not sure whether really there was a meeting because I have missed a number of meetings. Like for example, the 2023 IMC, I did not sit. So I was not sure whether indeed there was a meeting that took place and also that then the team must be disbanded. Ja.

ADV BALOYI SC: And as at the time of this meeting in
20 February with the Minister and as at today.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: Did you ever become aware of an assessment that was done about the ...[indistinct] ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No.

ADV BALOYI SC: Of the PKTT?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No. And I think I do cover it also towards the end of my submission. Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV POOE: Thank you. General, when you returned from the Cape Town meeting, did anybody give you a briefing about what would have been the outcome, particularly in relation to this instruction?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I think upon my return, Khumalo
10 and I, we arranged the meeting where we then had to sit to say how do we implement this directive or instruction by the DNC.

ADV POOE: And ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: But there was no other meeting, whether called by the National Commissioner or the Minister in relation to this. So we actually had to work with what we had before us.

ADV BALOYI SC: Sorry. And you say in that paragraph
20 18, I think if I understood you earlier where you speak about this meeting, earlier your evidence, I think you said this was your first orientation. It was an orientation meeting of the Minister and you were presenting to him for the first time.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: Did I hear you correctly?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Not necessarily for the first time because the Minister, I think, met different divisions for the better part of his last four months of the year. And I know there was a meeting in November. I was not part of it. So there were other – he would call a division and say Visible Policing, come and present to me. So we were not called as yet. So in this meeting, we were called, but not only the Detectives, it was all the divisions. And I think on the agenda, my part, if I remember very well, it was about
10 capacitating the Detectives.

ADV BALOYI SC: Ja. Thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: So I took it that because the Minister was still trying to understand the functioning of the SAPS.

ADV BALOYI SC: Thank you.

ADV POOE: General, on that point, just to make sure, in the five months in the preceding year, 2024, your division was not called to provide a briefing or orientation?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Where we were only as a division,
20 no, but there was a meeting with the Minister where he actually called us to come up with a plan on how to capacitate the Detectives. Hence on the 6th, we had to then present that plan to him.

ADV POOE: But a general briefing had not taken place on the division as a whole?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No, not that I remember. And I am saying this bearing in mind that my position also requires me to travel. It could have taken place in my absence, but where I was, no.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And then the ...[intervenes].

CHAIRPERSON: Sorry, Ms Pooe, I am very sorry. I will take you back one or two steps, General. You say that on your assessment, the Minister was still orientating himself
10 through calling these various meetings with this division, that division, and so on. So it is your firm view that he was at a stage where he was still orientating himself.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It is my view, and it will remain, because I think I have worked in State Security. Our strength at the time was 3000. I worked at NICOC. Our strength, I am not sure, but we were not probably 2000 or even less. In the police, when I arrived, the police were almost 200 000. That is like a cumbersome structure. I do not think any police minister will leave having said I
20 understood the police correctly.

I am managing so many components. Sometimes when something comes, I am like, but I was not aware, because it is impossible. I mean, it is a task that you really need a very strong management information team to always be on top of things. So the Minister, I think based on his

duration of being with us, definitely he was still in the orientation phase.

CHAIRPERSON: I am asking you this in the context of the Minister's decision to disband the PKTT, which I understand to be a decision that had far-reaching implications. So I find it very odd that at a stage when the Minister was still orientating himself, he could have taken such a decision. Do you wish to comment on that?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: My comment is I think your
10 assessment is correct, but also to further add, I do not think maybe he anticipated that actually this had far-reaching implications. I am not sure whether it was a lapse in judgment from his advisors or where it came from. But I do not think it was properly applied, and that is why today we are sitting here.

CHAIRPERSON: You refer to advisors, are you aware of any?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I know that the Minister has ...[intervenes].

20 **CHAIRPERSON:** On this decision, advisors with regard ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No. I am talking about in office, because the Minister definitely having been new, or let me say even where he was, there should be people who have got the know-how who are able to at least orientate an

advisor.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, General.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV BALOYI SC: General, sorry, you say that the far-reaching consequences. I know somewhere in your statement you speak about the effect on cases that were running. Can you just maybe now, now that you have mentioned the far-reaching consequences that you think the Minister may not have been aware of, what for example?

10 Maybe not for example. Just speak to us about that. What are the far-reaching consequences you are referring to?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I will start with for me the most strategic one. The police is in a pariah state as we speak because of that decision, meaning that General Masemola and I spoke the day before yesterday, he was looking for me and I was in consultation. Then he says to me, you, Mosikili and Dimpane are all in commissions. And I said, yes, General, it is because of what we did. It impacts on our day-to-day functioning, you know, but also on
20 relationships.

And I will start with General Khumalo, who actually had a very good relationship with the detectives. In honest reflection, now he actually has to question who he talks to. And at times, he would want to talk through me. That is far-reaching because operationally, when we talk about your

intelligence-led investigation, General Khumalo is a pivotal role in us succeeding as detectives. So I am just sharing with you a few.

ADV POOE: General, you are now back, it is after the meeting that took place in Cape Town, and you are with General Khumalo to put together a plan to implement the two directives or instructions that you each have received, and you talk there about developing a plan. What plan was developed and what considerations were you keeping in
10 mind in developing this plan?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay. What we had in front of us was just an instruction with a framework of what needed to be done. And I think for those who are au fait with your talk, you need a road map in terms of where you are going. And again, we realised that because General Sibiba gave me seven days on the letter to be able to do all of the actions that he prescribed, and I think if now on his side that actually there was immediacy to the disbandment.

So we had to devise means to say in line with the
20 winding down approach, how then do we wind down to the disbandment? And I think we had then to develop a plan that spoke to key components of what could be elements of the winding down.

ADV POOE: General, you speak about the winding down approach and the directive speaks about immediate

disbandment. Where does the winding down approach come from?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: In one of the things that I mentioned, I think at the end of my statement is that we also need to orientate the political principles on how we work. There is no immediacy to ending a project. If you say it ends now, it means I am saying to the colleagues where you are, just drop everything and go back to your respective environments.

10 We are talking here cases that involve victims of crime, where people's lives were lost. So we need to be considerate and thoughtful. Maybe it is just words in writing or it is English, but in terms of how we implement, we had to be cognisant of what becomes the reality to what is winding down.

ADV POOE: And so using those considerations, you developed a plan that we have attached as HKS2. Can you briefly summarise the key aspects of the plan?
Commissioners ...[intervenes].

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: Commissioners, if I may ...[intervenes].

ADV POOE: Apologies, General, it is on page 3 of the annexure bundle.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay, but can I use paragraph 21? Because it is almost the same. And then I will go to

the action plan on the annexures. Is that fine?

ADV POOE: Yes, General.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay. The key components of the plan focus on the following. There were 125 dockets under investigation and 10 dockets which were submitted to the NPA for decision, and all of those had to be transferred. And I must, maybe before I get to this one. So General Sibiya said all the workload must come to the head office, and my argument always is that I am not a police station.

10 And at the head office, we do carry dockets within General Motsepe's environment, in ...[indistinct], and I think to a larger extent in Organised Crime under General Shibiri's environment. But we are not designed to actually carry dockets. And I am saying I am not a police station. General Khumalo will tell you I always say do not bring dockets to me, I am not a police station, because the dockets actually are a key commodity of the police station.

 So in the discussions, even with the Minister's meeting, I think at the end of the day it was agreed that
20 those dockets must be removed from the PKTT as a team to the detectives within Serious and Violent Crimes, and that will be a murder and robbery unit. So this then talks to that approach to say the dockets will be removed from the PKTT, but they must immediately go back to their province of origin, that is KwaZulu-Natal, and I think in relation to the

three other dockets, that would have been Eastern Cape. The second ...[intervenes].

ADV BALOYI SC: Sorry. So each station has got its own murder and robbery. Is that how it works?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Murder and robbery is a provincial competency because it is a specialised unit, but you will have detectives at a station working on your normal murder cases. So murder and robbery would take such cases that are specialised or actually that garner national
10 interest. So those will be paid at a provincial level, not at a station.

ADV BALOYI SC: So where an instruction is the dockets must go back to, and the members of the PKTT must go back to their stations, what does that mean for what you have just explained?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It would mean that, let us start with the members. If members, because we call members on a call-up instruction to join a team. So if that team is decommissioned, they must go back, let me say, to their
20 business unit of origin. It could be a station, it could be a province, it could be a district. In terms of the dockets, I think the PC and the DPC will use their discretion to say this docket should stay with Organised Crime, with Serious Violent Crimes, or it must go back to the station.

ADV BALOYI SC: So where you had, say, investigating

officers in these dockets and that investigating officer now goes back to their station because that is the instruction, it means those dockets, if they are going to Serious and Violent Crime, I think murder and serious ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Murder and robbery, yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: Ja, if the dockets go there, it means then there has to be a new investigating officer, unless a decision is made by the provincial authorities to bring that person in.

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** If I respond to you based on the instruction, it meant that those dockets will be removed from those investigating officers and they will be assigned to new investigating officers and those under investigation. Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV POOE: General, you were telling us about the key elements of the plan.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Ja, so the second part was that all new reported cases on political killings will be referred to the Serious and Violent Crime Investigation Units, and
20 specifically Murder and Robbery Units in KwaZulu-Natal. In the workload that we also had to look at, and I think this also talks to the letter of the 22nd of April, 297 finalised dockets, 57 withdrawn dockets, and nine unfounded dockets were to be returned to their stations of origin for archiving, because all of these actually were closed dockets.

114 dockets on the court roll were to remain with the PKTT until they were finalised. Again, if you read this in relation to what General Sibiya said, that actually even the court-going dockets must be taken away from the team and they must be given to the detectives.

ADV POOE: And, General, why was it your and General Khumalo's approach to have the 114 dockets remain with the PKTT? Why was that necessary?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It was not only mine and General
10 Khumalo's view as well. I think National Commissioner General Msigidi in the meeting that took place, I think, on the 6th of March with the Minister, they supported this approach. And I want to use an example in responding to this question.

So, a case, so a docket already is placed on the court roll. Let us say it is a rape case. The investigator has been able to establish a ...[indistinct] with the victim, the victim's family, the witnesses, and they have an understanding, cooperation, and it helps in expediting the
20 investigation. Now, if you bring in a new person, I think in the GBV environment we call it secondary victimisation, because now you have to make this person to relive the trauma.

And it applies to also your Serious Violent Crimes. If somebody's family, maybe it is a murder victim, now you

must deal with a different person. And I will give an example. As I said, I have got a mother whose child was kidnapped and disappeared. And she came to a point where she said I am not talking to anybody else because every time you bring somebody new, I need to start from scratch. And again, I need to relive the trauma of being a year without my son.

So, again, it is about taking cognisance of the impact of a decision. When a docket is on the court roll,
10 again, there is a prosecutor, there is a relationship between the IO and the – so you cannot, for me, disrupt that value chain. Because, like I said, it can have far-reaching implications, even on the prospects of success for that particular case.

CHAIRPERSON: And in addition to those observations, which are quite important, there is also the question of the detective having to study the content of the docket and also get to know what still needs to be done, whereas the original investigator was already flowing or running, as it
20 were. So, there will be delays. And that, in addition to the observations that you have made, which are quite important.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commissioner. And actually, you are now jerking my brain to think even further, particularly on the PKTT. These members are vested in

what they do. And I mean, it happens everywhere in many environments, but because it is what we see. They actually make sure that whatever they start, they will run until they finish. And please do not ask me for statistics because I will not be able to give you. I am just giving you a reflection of what I know and what I have seen.

You know, the docket might be given to somebody not with the same zeal, not with the same energy and commitment. So, in that sense, again, the family already, if
10 you look at the police, if you look at the perception in the of the police, I do not think we are doing so well. So, these also further add insult to injury for the police.

CHAIRPERSON: On the zeal and good performance and so on, I am sure General Motsepe, I hope it was her, would not agree with you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Ja.

CHAIRPERSON: Basically, I understood her to be saying there is nothing special with the PKTT. The rest of the detectives in the country perform as well as the PKTT is
20 said to be performing.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Can I add, Commissioner, that actually there is nothing special about any of the units in the police because we are actually called to do what we do. It is the energy we bring that makes a difference. It is the image we portray to the communities that brings hope that

actually my case is in the good hands. So, it is a relative response and I think, to be safe, I will leave it at that, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON: Perhaps now that we are talking about that and the performance, earlier you said because this was a multidisciplinary approach to which you said General Khumalo added something, I will not go to what it is that he added, General Motsepe said there was nothing special with it because all of the facilities that you say and other
10 witnesses have said were available to the PKTT are available to all detectives countrywide.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON: And when we raised with her the fact that, but look, there are dedicated, for example, ballistics experts within the PKTT who are able to expedite the testing process and she was dismissive even of that and she said even detectives in any other cases within the country are able to expedite those matters that they feel warrant to be expedited. So, basically saying there is
20 nothing special with having this multidisciplinary arrangement. What is your comment on that?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Ja, now I feel I am on the spot. Change is good. And for me, if anyone brings diversification in terms of how we can do things, I think it should be welcomed. Detectives at a police station and

detectives in specialised units sometimes struggle for resources.

For example, cars and phones, and probably they would only look at what they have. So, if someone who is a leader decides that I want to actually be the game changer in investigations and therefore I am applying this approach, I think as the Head of Detectives I welcome it. In actual fact, General Nkomo, who was our previous ...[indistinct] General Msigidi, we tried to actually establish what we call
10 a just joint investigation support team at National.

To have all those competencies that in case there is a priority crime that takes place, immediately you can mobilise those members and deploy them. So, for me it is about diversification and finding creative ways to expedite as well as do better in investigations.

CHAIRPERSON: Just to make sure I understand you, so are you saying this multidisciplinary approach was more effective than, let me loosely call it, ordinary or the usual approach to detecting crime?

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** I will respond again, Chairperson, by providing a live example. We are busy now with the plan on gang violence in the Western Cape. Whereas you would have some of the dockets being run as individual dockets only with the detective who still has to go and ask for assistance from the NPA, go to Forensic, now we are

bringing again, using the same method, all those under one roof, under General Maqashalala who is a detective.

CHAIRPERSON: And is ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: The NPA is sitting, and because it is an effective methodology, now we even broaden it to include one of the critical elements in investigations, asset forfeiture, because it takes time to actually get that docket ready for court. So, we are also looking at other means of hitting the criminals, just over and above criminal
10 investigation.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, General.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Chairperson.

ADV POOE: General, and you say in paragraph 19 that in the course of establishing or developing this plan, what was clear to you was that it would not be possible to implement within seven days.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It was not possible.

ADV POOE: And is that then what informed this phased approach that you outlined in the plan?

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** Yes.

ADV POOE: And then, General, you speak about a presentation that was then made before the 6 March meeting. Can you talk to us about that? That is at paragraph 20.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: That presentation, I think,

Chairperson, is on the bundle. Sorry, let me just check. So, it is annexure – okay, it is Annexure HKS2?

ADV POOE: Three.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Three? Okay, HKS3. No, three. Ja. No, no, here it is. It basically was providing the Minister with a proposal for his approval of ensuring that this is a process-driven disbandment. And General Khumalo, because he carried the caseload, prepared all the cases and their status as outlined in General Sibiya's letter
10 to me and to him.

But what is critical, I think it is the page 10 of that plan. So, over and above the proposal, an action plan was developed, which we call the implementation plan, which then sets out actions that are supposed to be undertaken in the winding down and provided the due dates and people responsible. But I must add that of all the actions, the most important action for the meeting was action number three. That was the handing over of the dockets under investigation to the DIV-COM, Detective and Forensic
20 Services.

ADV POOE: And, General, just so that we can understand, when the plan says hand over the dockets under investigation, practically what were you envisaging?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Because already we had, through General Khumalo, done an assessment of how many

dockets were there, it meant exactly that. So, General Khumalo was supposed to physically hand over the dockets to the detectives under my command as set by the plan. That is what it meant.

ADV POOE: To the detectives, not to you?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I actually said this as a position, because in my absence, General Mogale became the acting DIV-COM. So, the dockets returned. It was not me, it was General Mogale. So, it is returned to the position of the
10 Divisional Commissioner Detective and Forensic Services. So, that would be a position that I occupy. So, directly, that is me.

ADV POOE: General, and so this plan was then presented at the meeting on the 6th of March.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV POOE: Can you tell us about that meeting?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Ja. In that meeting, as General Khumalo was presenting, as I said earlier, General Sibiya, I think the Minister, were of the view that even the dockets
20 under control should be handed over. But after discussions, or let me also hasten to add that, Commissioners, part of the plan included the reduced number of members who now remain in the PKTT, in view of the fact that only the 114 dockets will remain.

So, which means you do not need a whole lot. I

think there were over 90, if I am not mistaken. The number was reduced to 68. So, that was one of the other key critical components of the plan. So, in that meeting, I think the argument that the 114 dockets must remain with the PKTT won.

ADV POOE: And, General, just so that we place it on record, could you look at paragraph 23 and 24?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay.

ADV POOE: Your language there is much stronger. Do
10 you care to comment on those two paragraphs?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Ja. I am reflecting here on General Sibiya's thinking with the disbandment, that actually, General Khumalo was not a detective and therefore could not be responsible for investigations. So, his argument in that meeting, for me, resonated with the letter that he wrote to say that the handover should be complete so that no dockets would be under General Khumalo's leadership, including those court-going dockets. So, whatever element that he was arguing about in that
20 meeting, or arguing on, or arguing for, it was actually all aimed at ensuring that there is a complete handover to the detectives on the dockets.

ADV POOE: You then say that General Sibiya's sentiments were also shared by the Minister and the Chief of Staff.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: As I said earlier, yes.

ADV POOE: And the approach to retain the dockets was supported by the National Commissioner and General ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: And General Msigidi, yes.

ADV POOE: And you say, ultimately, what then became of the plan? What was the resolution?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: The plan was approved in principle, I think, with those amendments to say that the 114 dockets will remain with the PKTT, but also that now
10 these 114 dockets with those assigned investigators, as and when each case gets concluded, those detectives will then have to go back to their station of origin or business of origin, but also the combat members as well who were protecting them would also have to withdraw and go back to their business unit of origin.

CHAIRPERSON: That, of course, would not apply to detectives who had more than one docket in court. So, if you finalise this one ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: And the other one is still
20 ...[intervenes].

CHAIRPERSON: And you have ...[intervenes].

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It does not affect, yes.

CHAIRPERSON: Ja.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: So, it means that it meant your workload had to be concluded. So, if you had three

dockets, you had to conclude all of them.

ADV BALOYI SC: General, when you say that the plan was approved in principle, does that include, if you look at the action plan, go back, and then you have got the item two. Now, item three, approval of the new call-up instruction and financial authority for 2025/26.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: 26, yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: It included that as well?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It is included. And I think that
10 was specifically for those members who would have remained, because their term, I think, was coming to an end. So, there had to be a new call-up instruction for them to be able to continue with their responsibilities.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay. So, in your understanding of how that meeting concludes in principle, accepting, adopting the plan, your understanding is that even though, and please correct me if I am wrong.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Ja.

ADV BALOYI SC: I may be posing it not correctly, that
20 even though the Minister's letter or instruction says immediate disbandment in principle, the Minister accepted that there would be that call-up instruction and budget allocation for the period.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: You would accept that?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I would agree with that.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay, thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Chair.

ADV POOE: And, General, just to put this to you, Generals Masemola and Khumalo testified that there was not actual approval. What is your comment to that?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: And I listened to both of them. And also, I think there was an engagement to understand what does it mean. In the second meeting of the 27th,
10 progress was supposed to be reported of the deliberations of the 6th, which means it was the approval plus the amendments. How far have you gone? And the information note was supposed to be written for approval, and that never happened. So, for me, that was not the plan, but the information note. That is my understanding.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And then ...[intervenes].

ADV BALOYI SC: Sorry, I am not sure I understand. Are you saying if they testified or we understood their evidence to be that there was no approval of a plan, they are
20 incorrect in that, or we are mistaken? Which one is it?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: For me, it is a perspective. Hence, I am clarifying probably what it could mean for them. Because, in principle, that plan, hence Khumalo and I were able to even plan after that because there was a principled approval.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: But in the police, as I think I said to the Evidence Leader, for something to be complete for budgeting, you need that information note.

ADV BALOYI SC: I see.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you.

ADV BALOYI SC: Thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV POOE: And so, General, after this meeting, you then
10 speak of a call that General Khumalo reports to you from General Motsepe. Can you explain what happened there?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Ja. It was during March and after the meeting of the 6th. And again, Commissioners, please pardon me because I do not remember all the dates, and it is not deliberate or at misleading the Commission ...[intervenes].

CHAIRPERSON: You already attributed it to a general.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you for acknowledging that, Commissioner. Okay. General Khumalo gave me a
20 disturbing call and said that he received a call from General Motsepe, who asked – actually who informed him that she was coming to collect the PKTT dockets. So immediately, he ended the call and called me and asked, but why would Motsepe call him for the dockets?

So I said, no, General, do not worry. I will address

it. And I called General Motsepe and I said to her, can you please cease communicating with Khumalo on the matter because he and I were seized with the matter? Now, what I did not do, and I admitted to this Commission, I did not ask her where did she get it from. But I had an assumption because all the Component Heads, they have the direct access to the DNC. That is no surprise. You go in and you find them searching.

So my thinking was maybe General – General
10 Sibiya kept on reminding and I said to the Evidence Leader if maybe you need people to actually collaborate or corroborate that, it is fine, they are there. He would ask, how far are you? You are not moving. You are not taking the instruction of the Minister. So I felt that maybe he got impatient with me.

He got impatient with me because he assumed that maybe I was actually – because Khumalo, he knew that ...[vernacular] maybe because of the relationship we have, therefore, I am not willing to execute. So my thinking was
20 maybe Motsepe got an instruction from him. And I say, underlining, it is an assumption. It is not fact.

But also, why I would think like that, and I think the Evidence Leader asked me earlier as to why maybe all the relationship between me and General Sibiya. In February, after the letter was received, after I came back from the

bereavement of a family member, the National Commissioner got a complaint of an elderly person who actually owns properties in Johannesburg and that elderly person was extorted. His buildings were hijacked and he was assaulted. His house was broken, and he was staying alone. He has got no family. The elderly person complained to the police. And actually, at some point, even some of the police took advantage of him. So NAT-COM got that complaint, and he asked me to address it.

10 Normally, I would not undertake that task of dealing with complaints directly. I gave it to General Shibiri. But at the time, General Shibiri, I think either him or his wife was not well, I cannot remember. But the complainant kept on reminding NAT-COM to say, but nobody called me. This elderly guy actually had to flee Gauteng and was in Cape Town.

 So NAT-COM reminded me that there is this matter. So I then said to him, can I go now to go and see the complainant, which he said yes. General Sibiya has to sign
20 my itinerary because he is my supervisor, and he had a serious problem. And I think I did submit the WhatsApp messages. Even after saying to him, *Mpathi*, I would never. He believed that I was working against him. He believed that my trip to Cape Town was anomalous.

 I remember I even wrote to him in Zulu

...[vernacular]. And it got to a point where I said you know what, do what you want. You can deploy me if you want, redeploy me if you want. Because he said in the end, I know now. What does that mean? It means I know that actually you are working against me. So I said, after this complaint, I am gone. So in that sense, I thought maybe he felt that maybe he was not sure where I stand. I do not know why, but that is what I want to present to the Commission.

10 **ADV POOE**: Chair?

CHAIRPERSON: Let us adjourn and resume at 11:20. Let us adjourn.

INQUIRY ADJOURNS

INQUIRY RESUMES

CHAIRPERSON: Perhaps, to be fair, let us wait maybe for one minute or so, because some of the people who are not back - are not back because I asked them to join me at a very brief meeting, and I rushed back and left them behind. Apologies for this, General. I hope everybody is back in.

20 We waited.

EXAMINATION BY ADV POOE (CONTINUES): Thank you, Ms Pooe. Thank you, Chairperson. General, if we can go back to paragraph 27, where you dealt with the call that you received from General Khumalo regarding General Motsepe's call to him. What I wanted to follow up on was

whether this was protocol for General Motsepe to call General Khumalo in this manner or on this issue.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commissioners. Commissioner, I actually took the cue from you, and I am using this line every day. I want to say that this call, General Khumalo can attach to, because we both found it odd. It is not just me who is saying it. I am not sure if it was a statement, but I can submit that it is actually factual. Moving further, in the police, there are not necessarily any
10 prescriptions on who you can talk to.

The National Commissioner can call me directly. The Minister can call me directly. General Motsepe can be called by General Sibiya. General Motsepe can call General Khumalo. There is nothing anomalous about that. However, on this specific matter, because she was sensitive, there was no designation for her until I called her on the 27th. That is what I can submit.

CHAIRPERSON: But on who can call whom, you mentioned people who would be senior calling those that
20 are junior. Does it work the other way as well?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It works. Maybe before, I am not sure I was not there. Like I said, I am a lateral infusion. A constable can call me and complain about a matter, and I know that before it was not allowed. So, there are no written down rules in terms of who can call who. I do not

think it is regulated. But I think there is an understanding that there are people who still say, but I cannot call. I would ask but why did you not call, General, but I cannot jump my component head and talk to you. So, it happens. Self-regulation.

CHAIRPERSON: In my early professional years, I was a civil servant. And there was something called channels of communication.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

10 **CHAIRPERSON**: You were bound to talk only to the person immediately above you. And it would be that person that then forwards whatever it is you are raising. But from what you are saying, it seems that that no longer applies.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Chair.

ADV BALOYI SC: Perhaps just to place it or to understand the context. In paragraph 9.3 of the statement, you speak of the various specialised components that you have oversight over.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

20 **ADV BALOYI SC**: Does Maj-Gen Motsepe fall under any one of those? And if so, which one?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, Commissioner, she does. And she is the head of Serious and Violent Crime Investigations.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay, so she reports to you directly?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Directly, yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay, and on this kind of project where you have already been tasked by General Sibiya to be responsible for it and engage with General Khumalo, is your evidence that you would have expected she would take instructions from you about this?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: In actual fact, she was supposed to wait for instructions from me.

ADV BALOYI SC: Yes.

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: Because I was given the mandate to actually do the handing over.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay, thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you.

ADV POOE: And then, General, before we return to your statement, before we adjourn for the tea break, you were recounting an incident of where the National Commissioner had instructed you to attend to a matter in Cape Town. And you referred to WhatsApp conversations between yourself and General Sibiya. Can I ask you to go to HKS7? That is
20 on page 23 of the annexures bundle.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, I am there.

ADV POOE: Can you confirm that this is the conversation you were referencing in your testimony?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, it is.

ADV POOE: And then, if we could then go to the actual

conversation.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay, can I read into the record?

ADV POOE: Yes, please.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, it was after the National Commissioner asked me to go to Cape Town to intervene in that matter of an elderly victim. General Sibiya says to me, I am advised that I should just keep quiet and let you go. You are free to go to Cape Town. That was in the evening. And in the morning, I responded humbly and I said:

10 “Good morning, Pat, my DNC. I am not
 perfect. There is one thing I know
 ...[vernacular].”

Then I tried to call him, and he did not answer.

ADV POOE: General, can you translate that for us who are not fluent in Isuzu?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I was saying that as a member working under his command, I will always respect him. And I am not here to do anything that could actually be contrary to what I am supposed to do. But also, he must not view
20 me as an enemy because I am not. And probably that I was asking that, can we have a cordial working relationship? I am not sure if it sums it up, Commissioner. Translate IsiZulu into English.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And then, can you continue on the next page?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: So, on the next page, the general says:

10 “You know why you went to Cape Town and what you are busy with. And you also know why the National Commissioner sent you and not say anything to me about you having to go to Cape Town. I personally know and trust that Maqashalala can deal with that thing. At least now I know.”

Then I attached the WhatsApp messages between me and the National Commissioner as proof that actually this is what I was going to do in Cape Town.

ADV POOE: You can skip the screenshots to then go to your message.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: So, in the end, because I could see that he is not backing down and he has put me in a box. I am not sure which box. I said:

20 “I will leave it at this. I did not invite this to me. I was acting on instructions, and I forwarded this to General Shibiri who could not deal with it because of the wife. And they kept on calling NASCOM to say that we, as the detectives, are not responding. I

will give you both the complainant's numbers and the reporter. I will also write an info note to NASCOM through you to be recused from the matter as Shibiri, who was on conference call with me, with the complainant, will take over. The DNC can ask for my redeployment as this is too much for me and I will not be entangled on anything I do not know. I am here to work and nothing else.”

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And how does this then affect your relationship, particularly during the course of this disbandment and dockets issue?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, as I said, with General Sibiya it is a touch and go. We have to work. Again, I always say to NASCOM, I want to be the bigger person, even where challenges can be noted, because at times it could really be extreme. And I think we will talk to that.

20 So, because we had to work together, I became the bigger person. Moving forward, you could see that the messages between him and I on work were quite cordial.

ADV BALOYI SC: General, and I apologise if you have already dealt with this or explained it, that first message at page 23 from General Sibiya, or that he says from General

Sibiya, it does not have a context when you look at these screenshots and your response.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay.

ADV BALOYI SC: And maybe something in the voice call was said that makes him respond to you, say, I am advised that I should just keep quiet. So, maybe if you could just give us a context to what has been said that brings us to the two of you now engaging in this way.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: After General Sibiya denied that I
10 should go to Cape Town, I had to call NASCOM, who told me that General Sibiya does not want me to leave for Cape Town. So, I sought his intervention. And I believe that then he called General Sibiya, and I do not think he took it kindly.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay, all right, so, you applied for his approval, because you said as the ...[intervenes]

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: That is protocol, yes. National Commissioner does not approve my travels, but the DNC does.

20 **ADV BALOYI SC**: Okay, and then he declined it.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: And then he wrote this to you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: He wrote only after NAT-COM interview to say that I am advised that I should let you go.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay, I understand. Thank you.

ADV POOE: Then, General, let us go back to your statement at paragraph 28. There you were dealing with General Motsepe's testimony that you had informed her sometime in March informally about the disbandment's and the dockets. Can you explain what happened there? Or rather, your view on her testimony?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: General Motsepe called me on the 23rd of October 2025. And in the call, she wanted me to confirm that I actually had informed her that the PKTT was
10 going to be disbanded. And she reminded me that this happened at Kgosi Mampuru. And I remember telling her that, General, this is a mistake. Because I even checked my call logs on the day to say the only call, I have to you, 27 March 2025, and this is when I requested you to accompany me.

And when she could not get joy with me, I travelled to Abu Dhabi for the week I think I was supposed to appear. And I asked that I be given time because I had to travel for work purposes. On the 13th of November, she then called
20 my support staff, where she enquired if they remember. But the scenario has changed. To me, she said Kgosi Mampuru. But to my members, she said it was at Wachthuis, where the National Commissioner and the DNCs are sitting. And then I think my PA did not respond to the call.

CHAIRPERSON: On your understanding, what was so significant with the timing of when this happened or when this first happened?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: To be honest with you, I suspected that it had to do with the Commission. Because she actually said that the Commission was asking her questions about how she came to know about the disbandment. And I remember I also told the National Commissioner to say, actually, National Commissioner,
10 General Motsepe called me, and I find it odd.

And I said to him, luckily, I have got my call logs, so I can actually locate where on the day I made this call. But also, maybe to just give further information, I did give another message to the evidence leader. On the 9th of July, General Motsepe is the one actually who forwarded to me the letter of the Minister. And my other question was, if then I already knew and I told her, why then would she be giving me this letter only in July? So, for me, I am here to say that is my analysis and I cannot take it beyond that.
20 Thank you, Chairperson.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. General, so your testimony is that she is incorrect that you called her in March.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Affirmative.

ADV POOE: In early March.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Affirmative.

ADV POOE: General, then you proceed in your statement at paragraph 30 to deal specifically with the events of March. And you start there with the calls or nudges or enquiries that you were getting from General Sibiya. Can you explain what was happening around that time?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay, actually, since that letter was disseminated to me for implementation Commissioners, General Sibiya did make numerous calls. But also, if we
10 met either for meetings, he would always remind that you guys need to conclude the handover process. And the catchphrase would be that I am not following instructions. One of the issues he would say is that I was like Khumalo. I was now not listening to him. I think I am saying this, and ...[indistinct] said it as well, to say also he got called to say this was not business as usual. There was just too much pressure.

ADV BALOYI SC: You say, General, in the statement that he is, in addition to saying you are now like Khumalo, he
20 said you are dragging, I was dragging my feet in implementing the Minister's instruction.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: You confirm this?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV POOE: And General, you explained that this was not

the case. Can you explain what was happening that perhaps slowed down the progress of the handover being completed?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: In my earlier statement, I think I dealt with the issue of challenges that actually led to me and General Khumalo not meeting. But I think also I cited the canvas, some nature of my portfolio. I was not vested in the PKTT. I also had other issues to deal with. I think the example being one of that raised by the Commissioner
10 today, dealing with FSL matters would be one of my critical areas.

ADV POOE: And so, there was not a deliberate attempt to frustrate, as it were, the process?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No.

ADV KHUMALO SC: But is it fair to say you did not comply with General Sibiya's seven-day directive because he had given you seven days?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, and already we were in March.

20 **ADV KHUMALO SC**: Yes.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, thank you, Commissioner.

ADV POOE: In fairness, at this stage you had presented the plan, which was after General Sibiya's letter.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV POOE: And so, he would have been in the in-

principal meeting where the plan was approved?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: He was in all meetings.

ADV POOE: Okay, and so the reminders would have been in terms of the plan?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: For me, it is both. For me, it is both. Because remember, the plan is implementing his instruction. So, you cannot separate the two. So, for me, they are juxtaposed. Or actually, they are in sync.

ADV POOE: All right thank you. General, you then speak
10 about the meeting that takes place on the 27th of March. And that would have been a follow-up meeting. Can you explain what happened at that meeting?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I think the meeting was set to take place for a specific time. I cannot remember the times. I think the Commissioner said H is a factor, so I understand. And in this meeting ...[intervenes]

CHAIRPERSON: You said so, General. I was only quoting you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: In that meeting, General Khumalo
20 and I were supposed to present a progress report emanating from the meeting of the 6th of March. I think the opening slide spoke about 121 dockets. And the Minister remembers 125 dockets. And General Khumalo tried to explain that actually, during the process, as we were planning to handover, four of those dockets were now trial-

ready and were placed on the court roll.

So, that is why the number was reduced from 125 to 121. The other point of contention was that since we met in Cape Town, there has been no handover of the dockets. The dockets were still with the PKTT, and I still sat with no dockets. So, both him and I were chastised to say that we are not taking the instructions seriously. And I remember, Commissioner, that I raised my hand to say, Minister ...[vernacular] and I am saying this because, for lack of a
10 better word, I came into the process with honesty.

I did not have information on who was doing nefarious issues. So, for me, it was just implementing the instruction. So, I said to him, I am not against taking the dockets. And I think for General Khumalo, it actually, because he was singled out to say that he is actually unwilling, but the Minister also made that comment to say, this is a political decision, and the President is in the know of the decision.

That is what he said in that particular meeting. So,
20 then, he ended that meeting by saying that he will not engage with us anymore, and he will only engage with the National Commissioner moving forward. But both Khumalo and I, I remember Mina was very upset, and I said to the National Commissioner, but why should I be the one to take the dockets?

And he said to me, because you are the head of detectives. And yes, I think after the meeting, General Sibiya came to say, you see now what we have done? The Minister is not happy with you guys. Yes, now I am saying, go and conclude the handover process. So, it was on that day that I then called General Motsepe to say, tomorrow, she must accompany me after engaging with General Khumalo to say, can we finalise this? But I must say also, because he was the most hit, and I think he also wanted
10 this to finish. He really was not happy.

ADV POOE: And so, because of the pressure and this meeting, you decided to do the handover the very next day?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: The very next day. The dockets were already here. General Khumalo brought the dockets to Pretoria. And I will try and clarify, not reading his mind. Because of the pressure, this was not business as usual. There was no time to sit and say, okay, maybe we can go ...[vernacular] Zuma. I did not know where the dockets were, for example. I am just giving an example that maybe,
20 you know. So, it was at that moment to say, let us just do the handing over of the dockets.

ADV POOE: And so, because of the circumstances, the dockets were now in Pretoria?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: In his office. Because the following day when we went, after I called General Motsepe,

she informed me that she was not available. And then, Brigadier Kgotodithata will stand in for her. I did not call Kgotodithata on the day. And I will clarify why. In the meeting that we had on the 6th of March, the Sunday City Press carried an article on the details of the meeting we had. So, we were treating this as a sensitive matter. And therefore, the briefings would not have been, no, let us bring the people before. So, actually, we felt we were doing things as we were moving to actually avert any compromise
10 from the process.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And so, on the 28th with Brigadier Kgotodithata, you oversaw the handing over process. Can you explain what the process entailed?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay.

ADV BALOYI SC: General, maybe before you do that.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: Earlier on in paragraph 30, where you speak about General Sibiya would make enquiries with you about the instruction that he has given you, which is to the
20 handover of dockets, I think you readily, maybe too quickly, conceded to the evidence leader that his enquiries would have been in accordance or consistent with the plan. But I am not sure about that because when you look at the plan itself at page 10, it says the handover would have happened on the 26th of March. That is a due date. Is that a

mistake? And then I ask you that question.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: If you look again at paragraph 31, the very first line, you say the handover process was to be completed on the same. Sorry, at the statement. Paragraph 31 of your statement. So, you have got a plan at page 10, and then you have got in your statement at paragraph 31 where you say handover was to happen on the 17th of March. Is there a mistake somewhere?

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: Yes, there is. I think there are two plans. There is a plan for the 6th. That is marked the 17th of March was supposed to be the handover. I am sure evidence leader, maybe in referring to the documents, we mix them up. The second meeting of the 27th, that is where the 26th was. But the initial plan said the 17th of March.

ADV BALOYI SC: Thank you, I understand.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you.

ADV POOE: Yes, General, you were about to explain the handover process and what this entailed. In particular, was
20 there a briefing given to the members that were there about the process that was going to be undertaken, the purpose and where the documents were going?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay.

ADV POOE: I.e., was there a plan?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, there was a plan for the

handover. I think when we all arrived, we went to General Khumalo's office, where the documents were. General Khumalo and myself gave them a briefing that those documents were not meant to be here. They were in transit to KwaZulu-Natal because they were supposed to go to the Serious and Violent Crimes Unit or the murder and robbery.

So, the briefing was more on them understanding that the documents, as we take them, are not meant to be in head office. And maybe you can ask them, why do we take
10 them from KwaZulu-Natal, bring them here and take them back? And I did say, in General Khumalo, if I read his mind, it was just, you know what, this is how I can do it. Maybe the time, we were both in Pretoria and it would have been difficult for us to go and maybe rather bring the documents here than have the teams here hand them over.

The bulk of the members would have come from head office who actually were supposed to take the documents. So, that is why then he took the documents and brought them here to Pretoria. But the ultimate was to
20 move them from PKTT as a unit based in KwaZulu-Natal and take them back to the Provincial Commissioner and assign them within murder and robbery.

ADV KHUMALO SC: General, why do we not have that plan in writing? So, a plan that says, once the documents have been handed over, this is what is to happen to them.

This is who is to allocate them. This is how they are to be allocated. Why do we not have that in writing?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, and I must say, as I say, Commissioner, respectfully, this was a very haste process. I think some of the things would have been hidden under that particular action on the handing over. And I think the discussions in the meeting also informed the approach. It was not what we decided at that particular time.

ADV KHUMALO SC: Because this difficulty arises later on,
10 when you now have to say to General Mkhwanazi, here are the dockets and he says, but what am I supposed to do with them?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: With the documents, yes. I am not going to say it was... I think Colonel Khumalo said, use the word, messy. I would not call it messy. But I think for me, it was a very haste process. And I do falter the execution.

ADV POOE: And General, what did the orders process entail?

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: And again, I must clarify. With your docket auditing inspection, it is thorough. It is what General Motsepe would have spoken about. But this was basically to check if the dockets were handing over to the detectives. For example, all the documents are completed and properly filed. Verify the contents and ensure that all

the information is accurate. And also compare the number of the dockets we have physically with the list we have in terms of the CAS numbers. So that is basically more like your level one, just for the handover process. So, it is not a detailed docket inspection or docket auditing.

ADV POOE: And at this stage, what was the plan as regards moving the dockets then to KZN?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, in the meeting, we did say that, again, taking into account that there were other
10 activities in between. To Kgotodithata, I said on the first week of April, these dockets must find their way to KwaZulu-Natal.

ADV POOE: And then, General, you explain what then happened with the dockets after this audit process.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV POOE: Where did they ultimately go?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Brigadier Kgotodithata had a team with him. And I think Colonel Mdluli was one of them, where they then took – the other instruction was for case
20 management protocols and also to ensure that there is no interference with the chain of custody. Keep them safe and safeguard them. So, they know, they are experts in terms of what it means to safeguard the dockets and how to actually keep them safe.

ADV POOE: And, General, was there an appreciation at

the time that the dockets would need to be moved quickly in order to not disrupt the investigation process?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: There was. Initially, there was. There was, yes.

ADV POOE: General, you then speak about the first week of April, in particular on the 1st, about a message from ...[intervenues]

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Brigadier Kgopodithata.

ADV POOE: Can you explain what happened then?

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: As per the decision of the 28th, Brigadier Kgopodithata sent me a WhatsApp message in the morning reminding me of that decision to say, General, we were supposed to move the docket this week. Can the team go ahead and do their planning, their itineraries, information not for approval? So that was his message. I am not sure if I did send it to you.

ADV POOE: Yes, yes, yes, you have. And you explained that at that time you had other commitments. Can you explain what was happening around the time?

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: We, as I said, I am the co-chairperson of the SAPS business participative partnership. We were supposed to launch a commitment dinner a day before the policing summit. And I was the steering committee chair for that particular engagement. So, as I think one of the things raised by the Commissioners, that in

terms of protocol, I was supposed to be the one to hand them over to the TC. And also, because I was the person entrusted with the responsibility in terms of the action. So, I wanted to be there. I then asked Kgopodithata to give me time that I conclude the two processes. That is now the commitment dinner as well as the policing summit. And then after that we can make plans.

ADV POOE: And, General, you then say there were other commitments in the paragraph.

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: Yes.

ADV POOE: Can you explain the other commitments that also tied you?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Maybe before I start responding, that Commissioners, policing is one of the most unpredictable vocations you can ever enter into. You can sleep today peacefully, tomorrow you wake up, there is a massacre. You sleep peacefully today, you wake up tomorrow, there is a father who is raped a toddler. So, in this instance, just between the summit, where there was an
20 alleged rape of a minor in the Eastern Cape, which garnered response from social media and nationally, and we had to divert all our resources to the Eastern Cape. So, I was seized with the matter of General Lekhele, and unfortunately again, it stalled my plan to travel to KwaZulu-Natal.

ADV POOE: And in general, in your statement, these commitments lasted until about, you say, the 23rd of April, when you get a call from General Khumalo regarding further dockets for handover.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It was more than that. There was also an Interpol in the process, because when he called me on that day, maybe to clarify that, when I said we were seized with the matter, we had to brief Parliament, I had to meet with an Adv Madolo from the Eastern Cape, the DPP.

10 **CHAIRPERSON**: Madolo?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Madolo, yes. So, yes, physically, you had to be there, and then also with the Interpol. So, when General Khumalo called me on the 23rd, I was overseeing an event with other stakeholders of Interpol at the college, and General Khumalo informed me that he had three remaining dockets. Oh, by the way, we only signed 118 dockets. So, there were three dockets outstanding, and those were Eastern Cape dockets. So, when he called on that day, he said to me, they now have those dockets, and
20 we must do the handover, and I then called Brigadier Kgopodithata for consistency, but also because he had the briefing on this matter, to come and also collect those three dockets to add to the 118 to make it 121.

ADV POOE: And General, when you speak at paragraph 41 and say that when you called Brigadier Kgopodithata about

the three dockets, you then also communicated with him about the plan to move the dockets.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, Commissioners, much as I had a noble idea that I will be there, I began to realise that the more I pushed the dates further, the more I actually compromised the investigations on the dockets. So, I said to him, please engage the DPC, Crime Det-Gen Ngobozi, and arrange for the dockets to be handed over. I did this taking into account that at the national level, I did think,
10 when I was alluding to the structure, say that there is a dotted line for us with the DPCs.

I communicate with them on a day-to-day basis, so this was nothing anomalous. However, I think Brigadier Kgotodithata found Brigadier Hunene, who was acting, who said, before we can discuss, please pass the matter to the PC. So, then he phoned me back and said to me, Gen-Brig Hunene says that, before we can actually enter into this handover process, can we pass the matter through the PC? And I must be honest to the Commission, in my mind, I
20 thought General Mkhwanazi knew. He was on the 5th of March meeting where General Khumalo presented that one slide of the plan. So, beyond that, I thought, or maybe my expectation was, he should have known. So, when I called him, I am like, no, it is all systems go.

ADV POOE: And General, on the day you called him, what

was his reaction?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, as I said, I was in an Interpol meeting, so I only called him on the 24th of April. And General Mkhwanazi, he was confused by my call first, and also my request to say we are bringing the dockets. And he said to me, ...[vernacular] I do not know what you are talking about. So, I then clarified, no, by general, this disbandment, and General Mkhwanazi said to me, just hold it there.

10 First of all, I do not know how those dockets got to Pretoria. And secondly, I was not informed of this. And he did not say to me, do not bring the dockets. He said to me, if you bring the dockets, know this, I will not be responsible for that. So, for me, that was enough to say I cannot do that, because the PC is the ultimate authority of the dockets.

 So, if he distances himself from them, I cannot forcefully take the dockets to him. And I remember, if maybe I can take the Commissioners to paragraph 42,
20 where I say, and in all honesty, Shamase[?] is a very strong man. Shamase in Zulu, would say, ...[vernacular]. And on that day, he just went down, like he said to me, hey, General, what is wrong?

 That is the moment I got a wake-up call. You know, Shamase at some point was my divisional commander, so I

know him, I worked with him. That, for me, was a wake-up call to say, ...[vernacular] there is something that is amiss in this whole process. And I did apologise, and I said I did not know, and also, I had no idea that this matter would invoke so much emotions on you.

And I said to him, I think I am just done, and I will not call him again. On the 25th, I called the National Commissioner, and I informed him that I did phone General Mkhwanazi to hand over the dockets, and General
10 Mkhwanazi said he is not taking them, and if you bring them, he will not be responsible for them. Another surprise, National Commissioner, I remember we discussed at some point that we do not want another task team.

So, I said to him, General, in all fairness, if General Mkhwanazi refuses the dockets, I do not think we need to even think task team. You cannot disband a task team and formulate a task team. That is not operationally sound. The National Commissioner advised that, actually, talk to your boss, and I want to use his words exactly. I am not
20 sure where I wrote it. He said to ...[intervenes]

ADV POOE: Paragraph 45.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: 40?

ADV POOE: Five.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay, and he just said to me, your boss should decide what to do with those dockets.

Now, again, it was another take me out of it.

CHAIRPERSON: Was this a reference to General Sibiya?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, when he said your boss. Yes, so he said I should engage General Sibiya. So, I called General Sibiya on the same day, the 25th ...[intervenes]

ADV POOE: General, before you move to a call with General Sibiya, at paragraph 45 you explain that during the National Commissioner's testimony, he testified that at
10 some point he heard that the dockets were in head office.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV POOE: Can you explain, at the point that you call him to say General Mkhwanazi is refusing, did he know that the dockets were in the head office?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Which paragraph are we at?

ADV POOE: At paragraph 45. Okay, where he said he had informed General Sibiya that those dockets should be returned to their station of origin. My sense, after I listened to the testimony, then made sense when he responded. So,
20 which means he was not expecting the dockets to be in Pretoria. That is the National Commissioner, based on his response.

ADV KHUMALO SC: General, can I take you back to 28 March 2025?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV KHUMALO SC: In the action plan, item 2 on page 10. So the dockets would have been collected on the 27th. According to the action plan, there was supposed to be a stakeholder engagement with the NPA, including prioritisation of the 114 cases.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV KHUMALO SC: Did that engagement happen?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: If the Commissioner remembers earlier when I testified, I said the focus of the plan just was
10 central now to the dockets. All the other actions took the secondary role. So, it was never discussed, and I do not know if it happened.

ADV KHUMALO SC: So, the dockets were collected and NPA was not told that they are going to be audited and sent back to KZN. They ended up sitting in Pretoria for four months.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV KHUMALO SC: NPA was in the dark.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I believe so, yes, yes,
20 Commissioner. And again, I think, as I said, that of all the actions here, the one that was on the spotlight and the focus was just on the exchange of the dockets. The engagement with the NPA and also because I was not responsible for that. So, I do not know if it happened or if it did not. I think the NASCOM can respond to that.

ADV BALOYI SC: General, it is not quite directly related, but it is because you are discussing the plan with Commissioner Khumalo. So let me just ask my question. I see I have promoted him to General.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, to General. You are creating more confusion.

ADV BALOYI SC: I think there is too many Khumalo's in the room.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

10 **ADV BALOYI SC:** My question really is the plan as we have it in page 10, it gives you the items. Now, we know from other evidence that at some point General Sibiya gave an instruction that the members must go back to their respective units.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: Was that ever an item in the plan, in any of the earlier plan and the later plan?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Commissioner, again, I will take you back to my evidence earlier. I did say that in General
20 Sibiya's instruction, it said that the members should go back. But in the meeting of the 6th with the discussions, the agreement was that the 114 dockets must stay with the PKTT. So as a result, that item of the members moving back was, I think, thrown away. However, the deployment was reduced.

ADV BALOYI SC: Yes, thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you.

ADV POOE: General, if we could then go to paragraph 46. You were about to tell us about the call you then make to General Sibiya after you have spoken to the National Commissioner. Thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commissioners. When I called General Sibiya, I then informed him of my discussion with General Mkhwanazi and that he actually
10 refused to take the dockets and that if we bring them, he will not be responsible for them. And also, that the National Commissioner said I should tell him that he must direct how the dockets should be dealt with. I think I put it kindly instead of what the National Commissioner said.

ADV POOE: And ...[intervenes]

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Maybe to proceed. Because already, Brigadier Kgotodithata was standing in for General Motsepe. So, the dockets were already within SVC at National. Then he said there should be a team that should
20 be established at National to continue with the investigations.

ADV BALOYI SC: So, he was suggesting exactly that which you said to the National Commissioner would not make sense to do.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: General Sibiya wanted a task team to be created.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, maybe on hindsight, Commissioners, for me, maybe this was a point where we were supposed to again regather ourselves and then say how do we deal with the problem together with the National Commissioner. I am not sure if the outcome would have been different. In Zulu we say, maybe let me use English, it is water under the bridge. So, we cannot go back.

10 **ADV KHUMALO SC:** My view, General, is that all of you, from General Masemola, General Sibiya, yourself, Khumalo, you let the victims of crime down because these are now internal squabbles at senior National Police level. And it is impacting victims of crime because the dockets are sitting in Pretoria for several months. There is no plan B in place. There was a plan A, it did not work.

Mkhwanazi says I am not taking responsibility for these dockets because I do not know why they were taken in the first place. As National leadership, there should have
20 been a plan B to say now that we are where we are, what do we do with these dockets? And I have not seen anything. And I think all of you should take responsibility for that and should apologise actually to the nation and the victims of crime that you let them down in this instance.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Commissioner, I totally agree with

you. And I did say when I think there was a question around the impact of the Minister's decision. And for me, talk to exactly that. That the decisions we make have got far-reaching implications. So, the process being haste did not help the process. It did not help us that we did not have time to plan and say what happens because we just had to make actions as we moved along. So, I do agree with you, and I think we do owe this nation an apology.

ADV POOE: General, you say there that General Sibiya
10 advised that a task team be established. Did you say anything to him in response to this suggestion?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I have always advocated the approach that you cannot disband a task team and have another task team. Then why disband this one if it is working and have another one? I do not think even in terms of auditing we would get away with that. But maybe most importantly for me, and I think this is where I also agree with Commissioner Khumalo to say, after realising that this has become a challenge and it now is my baby.

20 So, I went back to the plan and said that my responsibility was to do the handover. General Sibiya is actually the reason for the dockets to be in Pretoria. So, as the National Commissioner said, he did not say I deal with it, he said General Sibiya must deal with it. So, I said he must deal with it.

ADV POOE: And so General when he – sorry.

ADV BALOYI SC: Sorry. I suppose, is it fair to say that if General Sibiya had become in charge of the dockets because he gave the instruction that they should come to head office, it was incumbent upon him to direct a plan B, as it seems he ultimately did, by saying audits must be done, a task team should be constituted that will deal with the investigations. I mean, he was implementing the Minister's decision. Is that not fair to say?

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** No, no, you are correct Commissioner. I think it is safe to say the whole process was flawed. Because under normal - we have never had such. I gave examples of operations that we are doing in the Eastern Cape and Emanguzi where your decommissioning is done properly. And Commissioner, there is a plan. And one example is in one of the provinces where I got a call from the commander to say, but General, we are being decommissioned. I am left with only two detectives, and my docket load is quite high. Can we get
20 more detectives? That is how it happens, you know. So, this was business unusual. So, I think for me the results show for themselves.

ADV BALOYI SC: And General Sibiya, would he have experience of decommissioning of other teams? Experience in the sense of knowledge, not necessarily that he was

personally involved. Would he know that this is a way of doing this? And this is what we normally do.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: General Sibiya has been in the police longer than I have. So, I suppose he would have known. But like I say, it is a supposition. I am not sure on fact.

ADV BALOYI SC: But you would expect that he would know that there are ways in which the police deal with decommissioning of task teams.

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: Thank you.

ADV KHUMALO SC: General, just a follow-up question. Assuming Plan A had been implemented, do you believe that there was capacity at local station level for the detectives to take over these dockets from the PKTT? So, if Plan A had been implemented as envisaged, and these dockets were reallocated to local stations, was there capacity there to continue with these investigations?

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: I will start by saying that for me, I think the PKTT was effective enough to deal with those, but also, they were safe with the right mandate. Taking them to the station, again, would have led to your single docket investigation. And I think in dealing with your organised murders or hit murders, do not require your conventional policing or investigation methods. You need to go

unconventional. So, in that way, I do not think it would have received the same attention or the resources that way within the PKTT.

ADV POOE: General, you then, at paragraph 47, sort of sum up your sense of where your responsibility stopped. Can you explain this to the Commission?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: As a divisional Commissioner, I always respect the mandate of the TC. And sometimes I see it as we need each other to be able to function
10 optimally. So, when General Mkhwanazi distances himself from the dockets, and the National Commissioner says detectives deal with it, that is a signal to me that I do not want to get myself involved.

As I said to General Sibiya in my message, I am here to work and not to get myself involved in any issues that affect policing. So, for me, after those calls and talking to General Sibiya, honestly, I said I am done. And for me, Commissioners who talk to my role, because I did my part, I spoke to General Mkhwanazi he refused. What more can I
20 do?

ADV POOE: And then General, at the middle point of that paragraph, you say there that it was General Sibiya's instructions, follow-up and enquiries to both yourself and General Khumalo that caused the dockets to be removed. Do you care to explain this?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: If there was no instruction from General Sibiya, and Commissioners, I am saying this again, having a blindfold of what took place in January with the National Commissioner, the discussions, mine was just to do what was written by General Sibiya and General Khumalo's letter. So, if he did not write those two letters, those dockets would not have come to head office. Or actually, for me, there would not have been an implementation, and it would have been different of the
10 Ministers as he directed. So, for me, the dockets being here was as a result of his instructions.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And then at paragraph 48, you speak about a letter that you then received from General Sibiya. Can you talk about that?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: The dockets were handed over on the 28th of March 2025. And we tried to hand them over. Then we hit a wall. There was stagnation. And on the 24th of April, whilst doing my day-to-day administration, then my office gives me a letter signed by the DNC dated 22nd April
20 2024. It is a new letter over and above the one of the 2nd. And in this letter, he indicated that, in complying with that directive of the Minister and subsequent directions.

Which means the one that he gave me and General Khumalo, now I must also hasten to mention, Commissioner, that this letter was written to both myself and General

Khumalo, not only to me. It was one letter. And he said we must conclude this handover process by the 24th of April. And he specified, amongst the actions, that this included transfer of all dockets, closed, currently under investigation, and caught going dockets to the division, detective and forensic services.

ADV POOE: General, in this letter and these instructions, would not that be against the plan to be asking for all dockets, including those that were caught going?

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: Probably that is the reason why there was no action on the letter, because in my assessment, he was now overreaching. Remember, there were his instructions, then the matters got a ventilation, or we did ventilate them at the Minister's meetings. And there were agreements, and there was that in principle approval. Now, outside of those, now he is asking for all dockets. Now I am thinking, but all dockets under investigation already have been transferred, so which ones are these? It was confusing, and probably unwittingly, Khumalo and I
20 never really took the letter seriously, and we never engaged on it.

ADV POOE: And then, General, you talk about or make an observation regarding General Motsepe's testimony about a meeting that transpired on the 19th of May. At paragraph 50, do you want to explain this to the Commissioners?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, okay ...[intervenes]

ADV BALOYI SC: Before you do that, General, on that, just to follow up on this last question about this instruction, which you say is overreaching.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: In fact, it seems to me that even the closure date, because the letter says, and the letter, is it the same letter at page 13, I think? It says you must give a final feedback report.

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: By the 25th of April.

ADV BALOYI SC: On the 25th of April 2025, when your plan at page 10 says you will submit quarterly reports, and it has the first date as the 4th of July 2025, and continuously. So, it seems to me, and correct me if I am wrong, that with this instruction to you, General Sibiya is actually fixing his own timelines now, contrary to the plan that you say was adopted in principle in the presence of the Minister.

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: I think the Commissioner is correct, which is also why we find it odd. I mean, I found it odd that – and also probably the tone when I read it, it was more like, do it. Because you are writing on the 25th, and you want all of these things by the 22nd, and you want all of these things by the 25th. So, it did not also make operational sense, so it went to that immediate approach to

getting things done. And again, as I said, we were actually focused on the plan. So, on the plan, there was no action that spoke to what he was instructing.

ADV BALOYI SC: And before this letter, did he at any point explain to you why the urgency now, contrary to what the plan is saying, did he have any conversation with you?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No conversation, and probably as we were talking, again, there was no follow-up on this letter, unlike the first one. Because on the first one, there
10 were enquiries, there were reminders. But on this one, even though there was no compliance to it, there was no push to say, I gave an instruction to General Khumalo, General Senthumule, how far are you?

ADV BALOYI SC: Thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you.

ADV KHUMALO SC: Would this instruction increase the number to over 300 now? Because I am looking at the second unnumbered paragraph 2, the paragraph just after the numbered paragraph 2. It says all dogheads closed,
20 currently under investigation and in court. I am assuming that once you add closed dockets, you go over 300 now, based on where PKTT is.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Actually, it is 600, because it meant the entire workload of the PKTT, including the dockets that we said must go back to the stations for filing

or archiving.

ADV POOE: General, in your statement, you then talk about General Motsepe's testimony as it related to a meeting that would have taken place on the 19th of May. Can you take us through that?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: The only thing I have to respond on here is that on Mondays, as sub-senior management, that would be the National Commissioner, the DNCs, Divisional Commissioners, and Provincial Commissioners,
10 we have got what we call high-density meetings. Those meetings are never postponed unless, probably, it matters beyond our control as an organisation. And after that meeting, on the 18th, there was a meeting with General Nkhua, where we discussed the forensic science laboratory.

There was an intention for the Ministers, both of public works and the SAPS, to ensure that we kick-start the relocation and functionality of the forensic science laboratory in KwaZulu-Natal. So, I think, when there was no
20 joy from both Ministers, we were all told to travel to KwaZulu-Natal on that Monday of the 19th, and we travelled with the police, with the Commission. So, there was no way that I could have been in a meeting with both General Sibiya and General Motsepe to discuss the dockets on that day. I have attached my itineraries, as well as my

accommodation receipt, just to show that actually I was not in Gauteng on that day. Let me say I was travelling to KwaZulu-Natal on that day.

ADV BALOYI SC: Was General Sibiya part of your travelling party?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: According to the itinerary, he was there, but he was not in KwaZulu-Natal.

ADV POOE: And so, General, your testimony is that you were then not involved in the meeting that took place on the
10 19th of May, where the way forward on the dockets was discussed?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No.

ADV POOE: General, then we can move to paragraph 51, and you state there that at no stage were the dockets kept with you or stored in your office or any of that. Can you explain the chain of custody there and where the dockets were housed?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I think in one of the testimonies, also by General Sibiya as well, it was said that the dockets
20 were kept with the Divisional Commissioner. And I also wish to put it on record here that at no stage were those dockets in my office. Brigadier Kgotodithata and the team took them to head office, and they would have been under the command of General Motsepe, which is Serious and Violent Crimes, since they were removed from General

Khumalo's custody.

And maybe if I can go further, just to add value or maybe clearance to what I am saying. General Motsepe informed me that when the evidence leaders were, and of course she was reported directly to General Sibiya on the dockets. So, they asked her why General Senthumule? She correctly said, I was travelling. I think between April and July, it is the season of the AGM of the Police Commissioners.

10 As I said, one of my roles is to be the chairperson of the permanent committee, subcommittee for the police chiefs, as well as leading your Crime Investigation Division. So, between April and July, annually, we are actually engaged in those activities. So, the bulk of the time, I was travelling. The last meeting I attended was in July, with the Ministers' meeting, it is called the MCO, where we now had to present all our claims, police, defence, health, and all the other subcommittees to the Ministers for approval.

ADV POOE: And then General, you say you wanted to
20 clarify another issue in relation to General Motsepe's testimony, and this is towards the end of paragraph 51, regarding the instructions given to Brigadier Kgopodithata.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, maybe respectfully, Commissioners, I think any leader or commander would actually be at fault if the reason you move a docket is for

auditing. We did auditing. Those are done at a station. You do not take a docket from its original place of investigation to wherever to audit. If it does happen, you take a copy, but not the docket. So those dockets did not come to head office for auditing. It was specifically for a handover. And no instruction was ever given to Brigadier Kgopodithata in that regard. The only instruction was just for safekeeping and safeguarding of those dockets. Thank you, Commissioner.

10 **CHAIRPERSON**: I think it gets more complicated then, because we engaged General Motsepe on why the dockets were brought to head office, and she categorically said that it was for purposes of auditing in so many words. I say it gets more complicated because then I am lost as to why the dockets were brought to head office. Because if you say it was for purposes of a handover, handover to what end?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Can I clarify, Commissioner?

CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: And I think it is also in line with what is written and what Khumalo and I had to do. And I must also hasten to mention that General Motsepe was not part of the processes from the beginning up until General Mkhwanazi was engaged. So, I really on authority cannot respond as to why she would make that either statement or assumption. As we said, General Khumalo on the 28th, I

think there was 27th, there were emotions in the meeting, and we then said, let us conclude the process. So, the dockets were literally here to be moved from the team to be taken back to KwaZulu-Natal. And you then ask again, but why could not you do it in KwaZulu-Natal?

CHAIRPERSON: That was exactly my next question.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, yes.

CHAIRPERSON: Because it sounds to me as though it would have been a handover for handover's sake. It just
10 did not make sense. Because from your testimony, the dockets are at head office, and they immediately had to be taken back to KwaZulu-Natal by April. So why on earth did they have to come to head office? I just do not understand. It is not your problem.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No, no, and I understand, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON: You did not disband the PKTT. You did not say that the dockets must come to head office. But I am just trying to understand what was going on here.

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: No.

CHAIRPERSON: And General Motsepe gave a reason. Of course, we engaged quite seriously on that, and we told her that the reason she gave did not make sense. Now, on your evidence, we discount that as the reason. So, it is handing over, and it appears for handing over's sake. And that is

why I am trying to understand what the rational basis for all of this could have been.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Chair. I suppose that does not require my response. It sounds more rhetorical. Thank you.

ADV BALOYI SC: Well, General, we do know that the dockets were inspected.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: The language used is auditing. That is
10 what Maj-Gen Motsepe uses, auditing. We do know that they were inspected. And perhaps that was the real reason they came up here. Because as the Chairperson says, that firstly, you say we do not do audits. That is your evidence. We do not do audits at head office.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: We do it at the station
...[intervenes]

ADV BALOYI SC: Audits are done at stations. So that could not have been the reason that it is done. They came up to be handed over so that they go back, as the
20 Chairperson says. It just does not make sense. But the fact we know from the evidence, including of Maj-Gen Motsepe, is they were inspected. So perhaps that was the real reason that they were brought up here, to inspect them, to see what is inside those dockets. Because we know that is the only thing that happened.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: And Chairperson, is this the point where I actually exercise plausible deniability? Because it is only a lighter note.

ADV BALOYI SC: We know you were not there. I am just putting to you what the evidence is. As we theorise about why the dockets would have been moved up and down in a way that does not seem to make sense. What we do know, though, is they were inspected. Someone was instructed to look into what is in those dockets. And perhaps that is the
10 real reason they came up here.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commissioners.

ADV KHUMALO SC: Following up on Commissioner Baloyi's point, I suppose it was not a question because you did not respond. Are you aware that following the audit, I do not want to use open quote, close quote like Chair, but you get my point. There was then a proposal, a financial proposal, prepared by General Motsepe. And as I understood that proposal, the dockets were now going to be reallocated, no longer go back to KZN, but reallocated to
20 various detectives in Gauteng. And I even quizzed there, I remember, about somebody who is in stock theft and how that person can possibly investigate political killings in KwaZulu-Natal. Are you aware of that plan, first of all, that proposal?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I was aware. If I can take it back

again, General Sibiya did say when I spoke to him about NAT-COM's response, and General Mkhwanazi's just wanted to say that they will have a team at head office. And I think that came also with asking for financial authority for a team to be assembled. So, I am aware. So probably General Motsepe was now, what can you call it, implementing that General Sibiya's proposal.

ADV KHUMALO SC: And was your approval sought in relation to that proposal?

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** As I said, when National Commissioner wrote his comments, he sent that letter back to me.

ADV KHUMALO SC: Yes.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I think it happened when I was in Tanzania, Dar es Salaam. So, I was not party to any other discussion or signature to that.

ADV KHUMALO SC: In the normal course, would you have had to approve it?

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** Yes, I would have had to recommend, not approve it.

ADV KHUMALO SC: And you did not recommend it?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It did not come to me. It did not come to me. Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV POOE: General, and had it come to you?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Can I be protected,

Commissioner? Thank you.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. Then at paragraph 52, you speak about a meeting, a Minister's meeting that was called. Can you explain the events around that meeting?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: In responding to this, Commissioners, I want to take you back to the meeting of the 28th when the Minister said he will no longer engage with us on the PKTT disbandment matter. He will only talk to the National Commissioner directly. But on the 23rd of
10 June 2025, General Sibiya sent me a WhatsApp message. I am not sure if I did send, where the Minister had called a meeting and National Commissioner extended the invite of that meeting to General Sibiya and General Khumalo.

To the both of them. General Sibiya called me and asked that I assist, actually that I join him in that meeting. And I remember saying to him, I think it is even on WhatsApp to say that, but the meeting was only extended and limited to you and General Khumalo. He then asked me to come and assist them with writing a report in terms of the
20 process and where we were.

When I got to his office, General Motsepe was there assisting him with writing the report. Unfortunately, we had a SAPS BACSA progress report meeting to the Minister at Crime Intelligence on that day. So, I did say that I would not be able to sit with them and I had to sit in a

meeting with BACSA colleagues to prepare a report for the Minister for that evening. Thank you.

ADV POOE: General, just for completeness ...[intervenes]

CHAIRPERSON: Part of your last sentence, in paragraph 52 you say:

10 “I had no interest in getting involved in
any further interaction with the dockets
especially after my discussion with Lt-
Gen Mkhwanazi and the National
Commissioner.”

Why was this so?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I do not think there is anything
wrong with being honest when you want to refuse to
associate yourself with something that you learned later
that actually it is not according to process. If the National
Commissioner is distancing himself from it, I felt that
actually I do not want to be part of it. So, all these
meetings and my schedule actually provided a platform for
me to focus my energies where it mattered, on policing
20 matters.

ADV POOE: General, just for completeness, were you
aware or made aware of the inspection report that Colonel
Mdluli authored?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I only heard about it when
General Sibiya spoke about it in the Ad Hoc Committee.

ADV POOE: And were you aware of the inspection report that General Motsepe did on the basis of General Mdluli's report?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I need to explain this using the police process or the police protocols. Normally when a report is written for approval, it is written in an information note by the author. It is quality assured or controlled by the supervisor. And it goes through all. For example, if it is Colonel Mdluli who is the author, Brigadier Kgopodithata
10 would be the recommender, General Motsepe, it would be myself, and the DNC will be the approver. So, I cannot speak on authority on something that did not go through the process and that I have not physically seen. Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV POOE: And then does this mean you also have no knowledge of the leakage of that report?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I am not even sure what that leakage is. I think when we were consulting you spoke about it. I am not sure if it is like the detective's report with
20 all the signatures or just a document that was leaked.

ADV POOE: General Motsepe's evidence was that it was a report. It was just a report. It did not have any signature. She had not signed it.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No, then I am not aware.

ADV POOE: It was presented in the meeting of the 19th of

May in her testimony to you and General Sibiya.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Unfortunately, I cannot comment on that because I was not there and secondly, I have never seen the report.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And then now we will move to a new topic and that relates to General Sibiya's attitude towards disbandment. At paragraph 52 of your statement, you talk about General Sibiya's attitude.

CHAIRPERSON: Are you referring to paragraph 53? You
10 said 52.

ADV POOE: My apologies, Chair. 53, indeed. You speak there that General Sibiya was adamant about the PKTT's dockets being removed from the PKTT. Can you talk about that and in particular the preoccupation you mention in that paragraph?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I must have a disclaimer first, Commissioners, that I am writing this in view of the knowledge I had after the 6th of July. So, my assessment and also what I observed come from what happened, then
20 the push, and then what General Mkhwanazi revealed. General Sibiya was adamant that General Khumalo should not be heading the PKTT.

It is a detective matter, which I differ because it is a combat matter and therefore the dockets must come to me. He was adamant through enquiries, through asking to

say how far are we, but further, he was preoccupied with the notion that General Khumalo and Crime Intelligence were investigating him, and I remember him saying in Zulu ...[vernacular].

I think I do have a message to this effect where he said CI is investigating him and I am not sure whether this is correct, Commissioners. I am a Christian, and I am not perfect. But if somebody is facing a situation, normally my first response would be scripture. So, I would be
10 responding to not motivate him because at the time I did not know. To say no, but be strong, this will come to pass.

ADV POOE: General, before you move, I think I understand what Bayangi Gigi[?] means. But for the rest of us, can you explain what that means?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Can I start with a joke, Commissioner? So General Khumalo also includes Commissioner Khumalo. No, no, it basically means that General Khumalo's people are chasing me.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And then just to
20 demonstrate this point, can you please turn to HKS6 which is at page 21 of the annexures? And can you take the Commissioners through that exchange?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: In support of my assessment, Commissioner, I actually go back to a clip that General Sibiya sent me of General Mkhwanazi where he said that

Khumalo is assisted by the PKTT to investigate me. And I think he sent it to me in the evening. So, I said:

“Good evening, General. I cannot open the clip. Can you please send?”

And then I asked:

“Gauteng CI you mean.

Because he just said Gauteng. So, Gauteng for me, I am thinking General Khumalo would not be responsible for Gauteng investigations. And I am thinking it could then be
10 Gauteng CI.

ADV POOE: And then his response on the following page?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, no, he said then:

“Both Gauteng CI and Khumalo, but they can only hurt themselves. They clearly do not know me.”

And I proceed to say:

“Good morning, my DNC. It is not a great feeling to be chased for no reason. I have been there, I know.
20 God, again, we pray a God who says he will fight our battles. Vengeance is his, says the Lord.”

Then he responds by saying:

“The problem arises when you get chased by small people.”

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And reading that, or in that moment, what was your feelings or understanding of this interaction or what he was raising?

ADV BALOYI SC: Maybe before that, that page 21, the first exchange from him, I do not know if its context is what is contained in that clip. We do not have a context of why he would have said that. At page 21, he says:

“So, Gauteng is assisted by the PKTT
to investigate me?”

10 And then you say:

“Gauteng CI or you mean General.”

But then we do not know what proceeds.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: There is nothing. This is the first message. So, he sends me a video of General Mkhwanazi and then a message underneath.

ADV BALOYI SC: Is there anything in the video clip that makes that statement make sense?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Unfortunately, as you can read the next one, it says, I cannot open. I think I tried to
20 double-click. And I had to get clarity. What are you talking about? Are you talking about crime intelligence in Gauteng or just Gauteng? Because there are two Khumalo’s. There is Khumalo CI and there is Khumalo detectives.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay, so, does that mean you never got to know ...[intervenes]

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: What is in the video ...[intervenes]

ADV BALOYI SC: Yes, what is in the video but also what he is talking about when he says Gauteng CI and Khumalo are chasing him. You never got to know what he is referring to.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: If the Commissioner reads it says 'so'. Remember he has been saying that ...[vernacular]. So, for me this was nothing new. So, whatever was on the
10 video was supporting his notion that Khumalo was investigating him.

ADV BALOYI SC: So, in his saying to you that Khumalo is chasing him, in him saying that to you, he had never said to you why he says so. He has never said to you this and that has happened. He has never given you that kind of background to those statements.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I am prompted to move to the other paragraph where I actually say that General Sibiya was prone to catch suspicion around those of us working
20 closely with him. So, I have been in a position where he said I was investigating him. Actually, where there was a case registered in IPID and there were people who came into my office like I was busy with the President I think we were launching the lab in Eastern Cape.

There was a raid in my office in Arcadia by IPID

and Hawks when he said I was surveilling him and that was not there. So, for me when he says these things about Khumalo, I think I have got that notion that the general always does this. So, I do not think I had to ask why are you saying it because I have been on the receiving end of that.

ADV BALOYI SC: So, the short answer is you do not know why he was saying that.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No, I do not know. He never
10 expanded to me. Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV BALOYI SC: Thanks.

ADV POOE: General, in your response to Commissioner Baloyi you touched on the investigation then into you after he was suspicious of you. Is there anything you would like to add in explaining what happened there?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: There is a member within my division in Forensic Services who was a critical witness in a corruption matter by AGSA. And that member had his wife and kids' photos taken. Apparently, he got shocked and
20 then he collapsed. He was taken to hospital. When in hospital, there were pictures of him taken in hospital. So probably they were saying we know where you are.

So, there was a complaint that came through the National Commissioner and General Masemola said I need to provide protection for that member. So, in the execution

of that, I do not know where the issue was but apparently, he said to the National Commissioner that I actually had hired people officially and the official guys to surveil him. And the National Commissioner did not know because he did not know that it is this issue. You know.

Fast forward I engaged the National Commissioner I hear this thing because people talk and everybody looks at you with suspicious eyes and I must say it is painful. Hence, I understood what he was saying when he said they
10 were investigating him. So, NAT-COM said to me but engage Sibiya if this is the issue. So, when I engaged him, he said to me, no General, if there is nothing wrong, do not worry they will not find anything.

So, you can imagine every day having to wake up and there is an investigation that you do not even know anything about. And I think the worst part was when my office was traumatised I think my PA, who was the main suspect because they said she was the one who was making this guy sign over time and for kilometres so her laptop and
20 iPad were taken and I must also say that these were subsequently returned to my office because nothing could be found you know. So, for me, when this thing of him saying he was being investigated or Khumalo was investigating him, it made me go back to what I experienced.

ADV BALOYI SC: You still have paragraph 54.

ADV POOE: Commissioner, I was going to move so you can ask your question.

ADV BALOYI SC: Yes. And the Hawks and IPID what were they looking for and did you ever get to know who are these people in terms of their names?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I actually never got to know. I think the person with more information would be my staff officer and I was actually shocked to learn that even the
10 Hawks were there because I asked myself why and apparently, they came with cars, and they were dressed in overalls, and I thank God I was not there. I think I would have been really, really affected. But I never got to know for reason that I believe that whatever they were trying to do I knew I am fine. I think that was my posture to say I do not have to go search who are they, what are they looking for if it is an investigation let it go ahead. I respected that.

ADV BALOYI SC: You suggest in the paragraph that
20 General Sibiya had something to do with IPID and Hawks officers being there with whatever they were doing.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I said there was a case register so I suppose that is why IPID, I am not sure why the Hawks were there but as I say my PA would be in a better position because actually, she was in the office, I was in the Eastern Cape.

ADV BALOYI SC: And why do you say, or do you think that General Sibiya would have had anything to do with all of this?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Because he was the one who had the case registered against my PA.

ADV BALOYI SC: So, he is the one that?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: That had the case registered.

ADV BALOYI SC: Oh, I see.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, he is the one who actually
10 went to IPID to open a case on this matter.

ADV BALOYI SC: And the Hawks? He went to the Hawks.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I am not sure why the Hawks were there.

ADV BALOYI SC: Okay, I suppose he will tell us.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: All right, thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV POOE: General, you covered the events of February, and the text has changed there when you were asked to
20 deal with that matter. So, we will just move on to the next topic which is your attitude towards disbandment. At paragraph 56, you deal with whether the Minister could unilaterally make that decision. Can you take us through your thinking?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: This requires us to go back to

2018 when the inter-ministerial task team was re-established because it was there before and I think it had to be re-established in 2018. It was the Ministers who sat discussed and developed a policy which the National Commissioner and other heads of department had to implement leading to the National Commissioner now establishing the PKTT. So, I mean that he could not just decide on his own to do it. It was not only Minister Cele who sat and implemented the President's directive.

10 **ADV POOE:** And you go on to say, to talk about the meeting of March 2025 there in the middle of the paragraph. In fact, the meeting held should have been held. Is that what is the point you are making that a similar meeting should have been taking place at the level of the IMC?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Not necessarily at the level of the IMC. The PKTT already is running but at an organisational level. You know, I think it would have been fair to have similar meetings like I also say, General Mkhwanazi should have been a central figure in those meetings. He is the one
20 responsible for policing a province.

ADV POOE: You also say that the Minister should have been briefed on the work of the PKTT. Is your understanding that prior to making this decision he was not briefed?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It is my knowledge. Maybe the

briefing took place, but I was not there. However, from what I understand now there should have been a proper briefing. We sit at the NOC, which is our National Operations Centre, and we discuss such matters almost every week or every month if we can do it on a weekly basis. So, this for me would have been one of those NCCF. That is the National Crime Combating Forum chaired by General Mosikili as the head of our policing where she directs interventions and if the decommissioning is done
10 from her office.

ADV POOE: And then, General, at paragraph 58 you say even if he could make a decision regarding disbandment he could not have directed that it happens immediately. Can you explain why you say this?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: For me, maybe even if he could part, I would negate but say for any decommissioning there is no immediate. That is my submission.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. And I think you have given us an example in other provinces where they have
20 been decommissioning.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV POOE: But ...[intervenes]

CHAIRPERSON: I wanted to say but I would be reluctant to state it as generally as you do because there could be a unit that has been shown to act in a most deplorable

manner and whose operations would just have to be brought to a halt immediately. I cannot give examples. I am not an expert in policing, but I would imagine that there would be such situations where there would just be no justification for that unit acting deplorably, as I say to exist for one day for any additional day longer. So, I am just saying perhaps you should not state it as generally as you do.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Actually, I am tempted to respond because even if there is deplorability in terms of a team
10 there is investigations within that team so maybe we can talk about combat members or whoever's involved, just hypothetically speaking. I hear you, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON: But in that instance perhaps there would be nothing stopping everything being transferred elsewhere but that discredited unit having to come to an immediate halt. I admit I am not a policeman, but I just cannot in my mind discount that altogether as a possibility.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I will leave it with you then, Commissioner. Thank you.

20 **ADV KHUMALO SC**: The example that comes to mind is if the PKTT was at a political rally and they committed a massacre where tens or hundreds of people were killed, would it not be justifiable in such a case to say this unit can no longer exist, it should be disbanded immediately?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Maybe in my mind, Commissioner,

I am trying to separate the members from the functions because they are functions that are not necessarily attached to the members but to a structure. So, for me I would remove the members who are involved. Let me use organised crime as an example. If members of organised crime are perpetuating atrocities to communities, it is not organised crime investigations unit it is the members.

So, you remove that rot and again, it is a process because you cannot just, I mean, there will be disciplinary
10 criminal investigations but there should be sustainability of the team and probably changing the team and putting people who are actually committed and responsible to fulfil the mission of that particular structure. And I think I hear your argument but for me I am trying to separate the people.

It is like now in the police we are in this position. So, you cannot say you remove everybody from the police. You know, I think we have an obligation to save. So, if you remove all of them, there is going to be a gap in service
20 delivery. And again, I think as rightfully said, the cases will be adversely affected. So, I am not sure about the immediacy. Based on my experience, I do not, I have never had a situation where something had to be halted immediately. And I hear your argument, Commissioner. Thank you.

ADV BALOYI SC: Has the Minister, I mean in the time before he went on leave or he was placed on leave, has he looked at reviewed, if that is the word that we choose to use, at other task teams of the SAPS and their performance, their effectiveness and whether any action needs to be taken in respect of those?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I would respond not only on teams, because on teams, I have never heard of a team that was under scrutiny or under review by the Minister. But he
10 did engage on improvement of processes, operations, investigations, particularly the detectives and forensic. So, anything outside of that I would not have any knowledge of.

ADV BALOYI SC: So as far as you know, the PKTT is really the only team that he has looked at, that he looked at, and made a decision as he did.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: Thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV BALOYI SC: How many task teams do you know? Do
20 you remember offhand? Are they in the SAPS?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: There is a lot. And I think I would have to go to NOC to get that, those figures, but there is a lot. We have in the Eastern Cape, we have in the Western Cape, we have in KwaZulu-Natal, and we have in Mpumalanga, so there is a number of intervention teams.

ADV BALOYI SC: And all of them are national task teams?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: All of them are national.

ADV BALOYI SC: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON: I think a figure just under 10 was mentioned.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It is more than 10.

CHAIRPERSON: More than?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, there is a lot.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

10 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE:** If, for example, we have a community engagement, and I am going to use the Eastern Cape as an example, and there are issues there that relate to murders, extortion, we had a rise in insurance murders, so immediately the National Commissioner then calls all of us and says, let us deploy a team, and that is done through combat. That is the National Operations Centre. Thank you, Commissioner.

ADV POOE: Chair, just for some guidance.

20 **CHAIRPERSON:** Let us continue. I think we are close to the end.

ADV POOE: Yes, certainly.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Miss Pooe.

ADV POOE: General, at paragraph 59, you talk about the necessity of consulting, and that you would have been one of the people that ought to have been consulted. Can you

explain this?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I also, in my response, I want to separate a person from a post or actually a position. For this to happen, all the operational heads, not just myself, crime intelligence, operations, visible policing, as well as detectives and forensics, they are key in such decisions because we deploy our members in support of the province, who are actually called from actually, I think there is a word for it, I just forgot it now, they are on detachment duty.

10 They are detached from their original place of work, and they are detached to that particular structure. All of us, because there is budgeting that affects my budget, so we need to all be consulted.

ADV POOE: General, if you look at the last sentence in paragraph 59, you say there that the divisions should have been notified of the instruction from the disbandment instruction. Is it notified or is it consulted, or both?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: It could be both. Notified because it comes through an instruction from the NCCF. I
20 will then have to call the DNC, and I want to use another example where one of the provinces, again, there was a team there, and it was decommissioned by the NCCF, and we were notified. However, there were almost 200 dockets on hand, and all the detectives had to return to their station of origin. We then made a request to General Mosikili to

only extend the detectives to conclude their work. We were notified, and I think through consultation, we were able to get an extension for the detectives to continue with their work.

ADV POOE: I think you have given the example in paragraph 60, so I will not take you there.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV POOE: At paragraph 61, you again talk about what you have heard about the 121 dockets and being brought for
10 verification. Do you want to place that paragraph on record?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I think I did cover the first part in terms of either auditing or verification, but I want to just add to say that for me, now on hindsight, what became a concern was the deliberate exclusion of the Provincial Commissioner in the process. Maybe it is a lesson also for us as people who are implementing that we should begin to ask questions, not just move because there is an instruction. I think for me, it was a critical, I cannot even
20 call it an oversight, I think it is actually suspicious to say the least.

CHAIRPERSON: Why do not you please do what Ms Pooe had requested, to just read the whole paragraph into the record. We know you have touched on some of the issues.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: No, no, it is okay, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Paragraph 61:

10 “I have heard that the 121 dockets were brought to head office for verification. I dispute this. The dockets were brought to head office for a proper handover from the PKTT to the detective. This is and always was my understanding. On hindsight, the entire handover process was not necessary, and I think it could have been done differently with the involvement of the PC, General Mkhwanazi. I consider the decision to disband the PKTT to be irrational and suspiciously calculated, given General Mkhwanazi's deliberate exclusion. As the PC, he is best placed to evaluate the effectiveness or lack thereof of teams within his province. As stated above, General Mkhwanazi was completely unaware of the disbandment plan and the moment he learned of it, he objected to it.

ADV POOE: Thank you, General. In your concluding

paragraph ...[intervenes]

ADV BALOYI SC: My apologies. General, when you say as a provincial Commissioner, he should have been part of the process.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

ADV BALOYI SC: He is best placed to evaluate the effectiveness and lack thereof of teams within his province. Now, how do you relate that to evidence or testimony, let me say, that the PKTT was draining resources. They were
10 using a lot of financial resources, which therefore deprived, and I think Maj-Gen Motsepe, and she must forgive me if I am misrepresenting her evidence, it might be another witness, that there is a concern that the TKPP, the PKTT rather, they are using all this money, which should actually be applied across the board to other teams, and that in itself is an argument against the continued existence of the PKTT.

If my recollection is correct as well, I think what General Motsepe also said, the use, for example, of
20 ballistics resources as part of this multidisciplinary team reduces the number of people that are available in your laboratory to support the other detectives and team, or the rest of the work of the SAPS. And so, there is that concern. And firstly, what do you say to that kind of critique? But two, if there is validity to that, is it really a matter that the

dissolution decision that in any way depended on what General Mkhwanazi says about the capability and the capacity of the people in his province? I do not know if you understand my two questions.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I will try to respond, and again with a disclaimer to say I am not going to respond to what General Motsepe says, but I said I would rather focus myself on the process. Operations generally cost money, and if you are to make an impact, you definitely need the
10 resources, not only in terms of human capacity, but also financially, technology and others.

The teams we have throughout the country are training SAPS money, not only the PKTT. And it is because I think over the years, our budget has been reduced. But it does not mean that money becomes the main motivator for us to actually disband a team. I think it is all about operational effectiveness. We have had instances as recent as now with the new Minister where we actually had to approach the CARA funding to assist in police operations.

20 So for me, I do not want to really get myself involved in whether the PKTT was draining resources, but I can respond and say that even the teams that we deploy, we come to a point where we are told there is no money and we have to reapply to the CFO for extension or actually for expansion of the budget. So, it is nothing unbecoming. It

is how it works. And secondly, on the resources, I think I forgot to mention that one of the things that we did, and with General Sibiya as well, was the establishment of the CIT Centre at Tshwane Academy and College.

And at that centre, different people sit. Colonel Mangena, who is a difficult, sorry, a ballistic expert, sits at that centre full time. We have got a GBV intervention that is sitting at the NOC in Tshwane. We have got experts, even from FCS, who are sitting at that centre looking at all
10 alerts that relate to GBV. So, it is not something out of the ordinary. Resources are drawn from different environments in support of an intervention. Thank you, Chairperson.

ADV BALOYI SC: The second part of it was where you say General Mkhwanazi should have been part of the decision because he knows better what his province requires. I suppose it is answered when you say the issue about resources is not an issue.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, and maybe to add, the national interventions are not parallel to provincial
20 functioning. They are in support of provincial functioning. That is why you will find if we deploy a team and they do not actually report to the PC, it becomes a problem because they are there to edify the PC's operations. Thank you, Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON: Before you conclude, General, let me

take you to the issues around the forensic laboratory that I said you should apply your mind to. Have you identified the causes of the delays in the laboratory? If so, what are the causes?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Okay, when we talk intelligence-led, it is not only about investigations, but also it means that you have to do research to understand what the problem is. And I am going to talk generally on forensic science laboratory. Why do we have the problems we have
10 today? And you asked, I think you said things have been there for a long time. What has been done?

One of the weaknesses within the system, and I think we have to take responsibility as management to say over the years, I think if I look back to when I look at the figures, 1996, 1998, forensic laboratory was only receiving 300 to 400 samples a month. And at the time, there were three and half laboratories. Half because Kabega was not a full laboratory. But as the years progressed, there was no strategy to actually expand because there was more crime
20 committed and I think it actually flooded the laboratories with more samples, whether it is DNA, whether it is chemistry, whether it is ballistics.

As a result, then the labs were overloaded, and I think the infrastructure affected. And it did not help that these machines were used to maybe processing less

samples. Now you have got an overload. So again, we did not have, when I say we, I am actually putting myself in because even if, I cannot say I was not there. It is all our responsibility. Now you also have the same number of members, the same number of machineries, the same infrastructure but the workload has increased.

So having realised that problem, and I think also it would affect the output because we normally say that for your routine cases that are just easy cases, you take 35
10 days to conclude them. But because of the overload, you find that cases yes are concluded, but it is outside the prescribed norms. I think that is what we are raising here. Then that also leads to delays. Maybe ...[intervenes]

CHAIRPERSON: Please hold your thought and do not forget what you are going to say next. But for me just to have a clearer picture in my mind, can you relate the increase or compare the increase to the 300 cases around 1996?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I will give an example that for the
20 two quarters of this financial year, the workload of the laboratory was around 400 000. And that is an increase again from last year where we closed the year, I think it is about 784. And remember every week all the nine provinces conduct high density operations. And from that also we get more forensic material for testing. For all the

convicts of Schedule 5, all of them have to have their buccal samples taken. That again, in terms of your DNA research or intelligence, you get more samples.

So that leads to increases. And again, with the circulation of firearms and with the operations, you get more firearms. Maybe what we did not do collectively, not only at SAPS as government, was to do estimates in terms of how do we see the crime trajectory in the next five years. And then we begin to plan the resources. I believe it
10 cannot only be a police problem it is a government problem. So, in the short term, what we have done, like I said earlier, in the partnership with BACSA, we were looking at expanding the forensic science laboratory ...[intervenes]

CHAIRPERSON: I am going to come, as you will remember from what I asked you earlier.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON: I am going to come to the solutions that you are suggesting.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

20 **CHAIRPERSON:** You were in the middle of going on with the delays and the causes, and I said, please hold your thoughts. Do you want to continue with that?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, so, I think the delays would really be in terms of capacity, which we are addressing because the initial Commissioner, I think out of the 10 000

that we have received, he has given 4 000 to the division. And I think all the environments within forensic, not just forensic science laboratory, are getting numbers. For example, General Mangale from Crime, Criminal Records and Crime Scene Management is getting at least 600 from that number. General Mulaudzi is getting 75. CI is getting 300.

So, there is a conscious effort to capacitate. However, at times it is like water in a drop because as
10 members are recruited, others leave. General Ngo[?] was informing us, I think, day before yesterday, that 900 plus members have applied for voluntary severance package. So, yes, it is good and all to get more numbers, but it is not sustainable. That is why we need to look at other means, and I think technology plays a role, of how do we leverage on what we have to improve productivity. Because the issue of human capacity, we will never sustain it. For budget, but also for attrition.

CHAIRPERSON: Then my other question is that the delays
20 have been there for quite a while, and why were they allowed to exist for as long as they did? You had begun to respond to that when I stopped you and asked you to continue with the causes of the delays. Addressing this question, that is why the delays have existed for as long as they have, you said that it was partly for lack of proper

planning. Do you want to continue?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: In response, Chairperson, I would say that we sanctioned our risk environment to do a business continuity study. I think it was concluded. I can highlight areas that were listed as problems. I think it is the issue of capacity, the issue of equipment, the infrastructure, and sometimes it is beyond SAPS. It would be public works like for example, not having during the rain, there would be floods. Sometimes there is no water.

10 I think in response, maybe this is where the solutions come in. That is basically our role to say that how do we address those? One of those is partnerships. In terms of cases that are placed on the roll and there is no forensic material. We have a partnership with the NPA where those cases are prioritised. I think we have figures. If my memory serves me well, a total of 42 000 212s were submitted either last year or the first two quarters.

We do push because that is the only thing we can do for now. Also, we make sure that our members work
20 over and above the normal working hours just to cover the shortfalls. We need to move into a space where we think sustainable solutions, hence our partnership with Business Against Crime. That is really coming to the party to assist us redefine the service delivery value chain for the police. We can only do so through partnership, you know.

In terms of the figures, I actually made a request to the evidence leader that whilst acknowledging that we have got problems, but I think we could submit to the Commission a written report of the state of forensic science laboratories and maybe see if also this can help Ghana resources for the environment.

CHAIRPERSON: By when do you think you would be able to do that? Would Friday next week be too soon?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: We can try and push
10 Commissioner. We can work around the clock. I am sure it is something that already we have compiled. But we did compile your business case analysis, you know. So, it will not be starting from scratch, but it will be building on what we already have based on the testimony that I presented to this Commission.

CHAIRPERSON: Let me take you back to human resources. You said you have problems there because some members will, as you try to fill posts, other members are leaving.

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: Are leaving, yes.

CHAIRPERSON: And how do you think that can be addressed? Or should we leave that for the report as well?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Not really. Maybe something that I can just talk about because I think it is necessary.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: You cannot stop members from leaving, but you can encourage them to stay, you know. And I must be honest with you, in the current off state that we are in, I am not sure how many will be willing to stay. However, we do receive a lot of requests for extension. We do receive a lot of people who want to come back on contract. So, we are encouraging that. But at the same time, maybe we need to look at also our recruitment or retirement strategy. How do we even retain those who are
10 there to avoid the issue of early departure that also affects our resources?

CHAIRPERSON: Officer Mkhabela is here, Brigadier?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Brigadier Mkhabela, yes.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, thank you. From his evidence, we got to know that there is the ABIS facility.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON: And my understanding or our understanding is that this is a very useful/efficient facility. But he told us that they are not getting optimal results from
20 it. Not because of it, but because of the lack of, again, human resources. Do you want to comment on this?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: We advertised posts for ...[intervenes]

CHAIRPERSON: because he said for example, its output, I think, if I am not mistaken, would be in the tens of

thousands. But after that output, you need warm-bodied individuals to then work through that output. But he says those warm bodies are not there.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I think before he came, there were posts advertised for ballistics, but also in the new intake. There are also posts that are advertised. I think because we had an issue with equity guidelines which are signed, I think, day before yesterday. So now we are going to see things happening. I think not only ballistics, but the
10 entire organisation could not fill any posts because of that. But beyond anything, we also encourage members who are internal.

Let us say somebody is in visible policing but has got a desire or passion for firearms, to apply for a lateral transfer. Maybe that is also what we can - I know the National Commissioner gave us a thousand posts for lateral transfer. So, we can look at also utilising that process to make sure that there are warm bodies. The commanders also are given the leeway to headhunt.

20 I know when I was in organised crime, there was a team that I took from a station because there was no capacity. So, we also need to think creatively in terms of how do we leverage on what is available to us and make sure that we build that capacity. I also request that maybe as part of that report, we also cover the issue of how we are

going to build capacity for this environment, not only ballistics, but for all the FSL environments.

CHAIRPERSON: Would you say that this issue is seriously on SAPS radar screen as I think it should be? That is, the delays and what needs to be done?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: As a country, we always are fixated on DNA to the detriment of other structures. So maybe after his testimony, I know we did sit with the National Commissioner, General Mulaudzi, there is a
10 turnaround strategy that they are working on. But I think it should be on the radar, as you say.

CHAIRPERSON: I say so because I think the delays result in bottlenecks with regards to the entire value chain in criminal investigations.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON: So that is why I think it should be on SAPS radar screen. Do you want to comment on that?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: I am not sure if the Commissioner would allow me to say ...[intervenes]

20 **CHAIRPERSON**: No, I do.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Actually, because we did discuss, I think, post Brigadier Mkhabela's testimony and some of the issues that he would have presented. And I think it would be fair that we actually provide this committee with a report. Because my fear is that we might end up talking

past each other. And I think that is not what I would like to do at this Commission.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Thank you, General.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commission.

ADV BALOYI SC: General, can I just check about that report? Having discussed Brigadier Mkhabela's evidence, will that report be as specific or particularised as to include addressing the issues, specific issues that he raised as a matter of concern? So that we know what is SAPS
10 response to those kinds of concerns?

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Yes, Commission.

ADV BALOYI SC: Thank you.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON: And please, I know that Brigadier Mkhabela's testimony focused on ballistics. And we are by no means limiting you to that. Please, that is why when I introduced the subject, I referred to the delays in the laboratory. So, my focus is not necessarily on ballistics only.

20 **LT-GEN SENTHUMULE**: Thank you, Commission.

ADV POOE: General, we are at the conclusion of your statement. And you can take the Commission through the last two paragraphs. Alternatively, you can always read them into the record. The choice is yours.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you very much,

Commissioners. I will start by saying that I think July 6th was a game-changer for most of us in the police, particularly the leadership. Because it painted a picture of a not-so-proper and upstanding organisation. And I want to submit to you today that in my capacity where I sit, I take what I do seriously.

And not just me, but there is a lot of police officers, and I think some of them came here to testify, who chooses this country over and above their families. In one of his
10 testimonies, National Commissioner said, this job does not give you a life and that is for a fact. So, we are here not to be served, but to serve. And we do so with dignity and with honour. And I think on hindsight, I am not sure if the Commissioner would allow me to read that?

CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: That in getting involved in the disbandment process, it was because of the vocation or the position that you hold as instructed. And however, I think upon realising that General Mkhwanazi was not in the
20 process and actually did not know about it, I expressed serious misgivings. And I also commend him, not that I want to join the queue of social media, but he called out what most did not.

And maybe because he was the most affected. And moving further, and I know that we have the nicest National

Commissioner who is also very operationally strong, if I may add. But I think he has an obligation to protect us as executive under his command from political exposure. It is difficult to work with people who, I think we would call them in organised crime, politically exposed people, the PEPs, you know.

And I think the proximity between the executive, not only for SAPS, I think in government, should really be drawn maybe one of the recommendations from the
10 Commission because this is where problems start. Once we have that close proximity to the Minister, then lines get blurred and I think the executive authority who is the accounting officer also does not know how to manage the department.

And I submit that I think the Minister ought to have taken time and effort to orientate himself with how SAPS works and probably consult, not just individually, but as a collective, executives, to share his vision. I am one of the beneficiaries of his projects, the SAPS BACSA project, the
20 CSIR project, you know, and allow us to operationalise his vision in line with his constitutional mandate. And for that, Commissioners, I thank you for the opportunity to be able to come and present myself to you. Thank you.

ADV POOE: Commissioners, I have no further questions for the witness.

CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Ms Pooe. Thank you very much, General.

LT-GEN SENTHUMULE: Thank you.

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS

CHAIRPERSON: Ms Pooe, what happens next?

ADV POOE: Chairperson, Commissioners, there are no other witnesses scheduled for today. This will be the conclusion of our evidence for today.

CHAIRPERSON: So, do we resume at 09:30 on Monday?

10 **ADV POOE:** Yes.

CHAIRPERSON: Let us adjourn until 09:30 on Monday.

INQUIRY ADJOURNS TO 1 DECEMBER 2025

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