

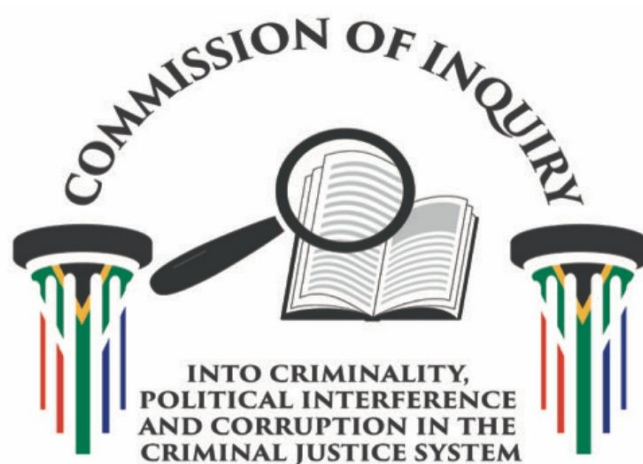
**JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CRIMINALITY,**  
**POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND CORRUPTION IN THE**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

**HELD AT**

**BRIGITTE MABANDLA JUSTICE COLLEGE**

**14 OCTOBER 2025**

**DAY 12**



**PROCEEDINGS ON 14 OCTOBER 2025**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Yes, Ms Hassim?

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Good morning Chair, good morning Commissioners. I think that Mr Chaskalson will begin before me.

**ADV CHASKALSON SC:** Thank you, Chair. I am happy to announce that we have reached an agreement with Daily Maverick and Media24. We have prepared a draft ruling that will govern the agreement. I wonder if I might hand up  
10 copies.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Please.

**ADV CHASKALSON SC:** Chair, Commissioners, it is quite a complicated arrangement, so it might make sense if I can take the Commission through it. What we have tried to achieve is to the extent that it is possible to have reached agreement, we have tried to achieve a situation that maximises the public's access to the Commission and at the same time maximising the security of the witnesses who will testify and concerns relating to the disclosure of evidence  
20 relating to ongoing investigations.

The agreement that has already been reached relates to the testimony for today and tomorrow and for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and next week. There is still an outstanding dispute in relation to the testimony for Thursday and Friday, but we are going to continue trying to

reach agreement in that regard.

Maybe if I can start at the end? If the Commission goes to paragraph 4 of the draft, we say we will attempt to settle our dispute in respect of the witness who is going to testify on Thursday and Friday on matters relating to ongoing criminal investigations and in the event that we are not able to settle our dispute, the dispute will be resolved on a timetable.

We have given ourselves until lunchtime  
10 Wednesday to try to resolve that dispute. And by lunchtime Wednesday if the dispute is not resolved, the Evidence Leaders will reply to the answering affidavit or put up whatever written argument they want to put up. And by 3 o'clock on Wednesday, News 24 and Daily Maverick will put up their written argument in response and we would ask the Commission to hand down a ruling at the start on Thursday and whichever way that ruling goes, the witness will then be in a position to testify from Thursday.

So that is the outstanding dispute which relates to  
20 Thursday and Friday, but the resolved disputes concern today, and it is quite a complicated scheme. For today and tomorrow there will be one witness. That witness has been set up to testify remotely and off *camera* so the witness's identity will be protected. No one will see the witness and no one will hear the witness.

What we have is we have Evidence Leader, Ms Pooe, at my left, who is going to act as an intermediary. So the questions from Ms Hassim will be heard by the witness at the witness's remote site. The witness will answer into headphones of Ms Pooe who will then repeat the witness's answers.

So the witness's face and voice will be protected, but the witness's answers will be there for everybody to hear. And the exhibits that the witness refers to will be  
10 displayed on that screen and on the live feed and the statement of the witness, insofar as the witness refers to that statement in the evidence, will similarly be displayed. And then after the witness's testimony has been finished, the transcript of the witness's testimony will be made publicly available just as all other transcripts are made publicly available. So, in essence, all that is being withheld from the process is the witness's face and voice.

Then the same arrangement, there will be three witnesses called from Monday to Wednesday next week and  
20 the arrangement that I have just described will apply to one of those three. The other two of the three are happy to testify without an intermediary. So they will be off *camera*, but their voices will be heard. They are not concerned about being identified by voice. One of the three is.

And the last provision of this agreement that we

have reached with Daily Maverick and News24 is that we have talked about five witnesses. The witness who will give testimony today, the witness who will give testimony on Thursday and Friday, and the witnesses who will testify Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday next week. Apart from those witnesses to which this ruling refers, we will not seek to lead any other witnesses in *camera* without making a new application and we will give the public 72 hours' notice of any new application.

10           So that is the agreement we have reached. We have embodied it in this draft ruling and we would ask the Commission to issue the draft ruling as a formal ruling. And Mr Du Plessis from the media houses is present if there are any questions that you would like to address to him.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Perhaps I am misreading this, but thank you very much for the explanation, Mr Chaskalson. What happens on Thursday 16?

**ADV CHASKALSON SC:** Sorry, Chair, I did not hear that.

20           **CHAIRPERSON:** What happens on Thursday 16 and Friday 17? I do not see any reference to that.

**ADV CHASKALSON SC:** Paragraph 4.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you very much. Thank you.

**ADV CHASKALSON SC:** Thanks, Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON:** I missed that. Mr Du Plessis, do you confirm that this does indeed accord with the agreement

between the parties?

**MR DU PLESSIS**: Good morning, Commissioners. Yes, I confirm that the draft order is acceptable to the media respondents. I suppose I have nothing further to add other than to thank the Evidence Leaders for their collegiality and constructive engagement to find a balance and to the Commission for accommodating us.

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**RULING**

10 **CHAIRPERSON**: Thank you. Thanks to you too.

“[1] By agreement between the parties, the evidence of the in *camera* witness to be called today, that is Tuesday 14 October 2025 and Wednesday 15 October 2025, will be heard as follows:

a. The witness will testify remotely and off *camera*.

20 b. The answers of the witness to questions posed by the Evidence Leaders will be repeated publicly through an intermediary whose voice will be broadcast live as he or she repeats the witness's words.

c. The witness's anonymised statement with exhibits will be displayed live on

screen as the witness testifies.

d. The transcript of the witness's testimony will be made publicly available after the witness has finished testifying.

[2] The evidence of one of the three in *camera* witnesses to be called in the period Monday 20 October 2025 to Wednesday 22 October 2025 will be heard as set out in [1] above.

10 [3] The evidence of the remaining two in *camera* witnesses to be called in the period Monday 20 October 2025 to Wednesday 22 October 2025 will be heard as follows:

a. The witness will testify remotely and off *camera*.

b. The witnesses will not testify through intermediaries and their answers to questions of the Evidence Leaders will be  
20 broadcast live.

c. The witness's anonymised statement with exhibits will be displayed live on screen as the witness testifies.

d. The transcript of the witness's testimony will be made publicly available

after the witness has finished testifying.

[4] The parties will attempt to settle their dispute in respect of the witness who will testify on Thursday 16 October 2025 and Friday 17 October 2025, on matters which relate to ongoing criminal investigations. In the event that the parties are unable to settle their dispute, the dispute will be resolved on the following timeline:

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a. The Evidence Leaders will file their reply to the answering affidavit of News24 and Daily Maverick on or before 13:00 on Wednesday 22 October 2025, together with any written submissions that they would want the Commission to consider.

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b. News24 and Daily Maverick will file any submissions on their application on or before 15:00 on Wednesday 22 October 2025.

c. The Commission will hand down its ruling on the *in camera* application at the start of proceedings on Thursday 23 October 2025.

[5] Apart from the witnesses to which this ruling refers, the Evidence Leaders will not seek to lead any other witness in *camera* without making a new application to the Commission and making the effect of that application publicly known at least 72 hours before the witness is called to testify.”

**ADV CHASKALSON SC:** Chair, I am terribly sorry. I have  
10 just picked up that we have slipped a week in the dates in paragraph 4. I must apologise for that. So 4 starts off by referring to Thursday 16 October and Friday 17 October and then it jumps to Wednesday 22 October. That should be Wednesday 15 October, because we are talking about an arrangement for testimony this Thursday on the 16<sup>th</sup>. So in paragraph A, the Wednesday should be 15 October, not 22 October. And paragraph B, likewise, Wednesday 15 October and paragraph C is Thursday 16 October. I apologise for that oversight. Between us, we missed out  
20 here on the dates.

**CHAIRPERSON:** I will not re-read that. For 22 in A, we substitute 15. For 22 in B, we substitute 15. And for 23 in C, we substitute 16. Then paragraph 5:

“[5] Apart from the witnesses to which this ruling refers, the Evidence Leaders

will not seek to lead any other witnesses in *camera* without making a new application to the Commission and making the effect of that application publicly known at least 72 hours before the witness is called to testify.”

I hand down the ruling.

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**ADV CHASKALSON SC:** Thank you, Chair.

10 **CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you, Mr Chaskalson. And is it Ms Hassim now?

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Thank you, Chair. It is my turn. It probably would be, if I can beg the Chair's indulgence for two minutes for us to set up the link with the witness? It probably is best for us to adjourn for a short period.

**CHAIRPERSON:** We will hear from you then. We will not state a time. Let us adjourn.

**INQUIRY ADJOURNS**

**INQUIRY RESUMES**

20 **CHAIRPERSON:** Phones off, please. I think before we swear Witness X in, we should swear in Ms Pooe, who is going to be relaying what Witness X says. So right from the start, there should be an oath as to the act of relaying.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Thank you, Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Please, Ms Pooe.

**MS POOE**: Thank you, Chair”

10 “I, Thabang Pooe, declare under oath and declare that I shall faithfully and to the best of my ability relay into the record the testimony of Witness X, whose identity is at the direction of the Commission and for security reasons withheld from the public, and who is testifying through an electronic link in these proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry to investigate allegations of criminality, political interference, and corruption in the criminal justice system arising from specific allegations made by Lt-Gen Thabang Pooe Mkhwanazi, on 6 July 2025 by mechanical or electronic means as ordered by the Chairperson of the Commission.”

20 **CHAIRPERSON**: Raise your right hand and say, so help me God.

**MS POOE**: So help me God.

**CHAIRPERSON**: Thank you.

**THABANG POOE**: (duly sworn states)

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Thank you, Ms Pooe. Thank you, Chair.

Thank you, Commissioners. Before you swear the witness in, if I can just again, and for the sake of clarity and completeness, explain that today's witness is Witness X, and Witness X will be testifying before the Commission through an intermediary, Ms Pooe, and that this measure has been adopted due to safety and confidentiality concerns.

These concerns are elaborated in a confidential Annexure A, which has been provided to the  
10 Commissioners. The witnesses' identity and personal details are being protected to ensure that they are not exposed to any risk of harm or intimidation as a result of their cooperation with the Commission. I would like to reiterate for the record that as Evidence Leaders, we are mindful that these proceedings are of great public interest and that the principle of transparency is an essential feature of public enquiries of this nature, and we strive to uphold transparency where possible.

In cases like this, however, it is necessary to  
20 balance the public's access with equally important obligations to protect witnesses who may be vulnerable or at risk. So we have set up a system to permit the witness to testify remotely, and although we have tested the system twice now, and we hope that it will run smoothly, I plead for your forbearance in the event that there are glitches. We

can swear in the witness.

**CHAIRPERSON**: Thank you. And perhaps I should say this. Maybe you did touch on it. If you did, I missed it. The public and everybody gathered here and those viewing or listening remotely must bear with us because there will be delays between what Witness X says and the point at which the intermediary then relays what Witness X says.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: That is indeed correct.

**CHAIRPERSON**: And we also need to be careful about the  
10 use of pronouns as well. Thank you. I have been told that Witness X will take the oath.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Witness X, can I confirm that you would prefer to take the oath?

**WITNESS X**: Yes, I will take the oath.

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

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Witness X, did you hear that? Let me repeat it for you. The Chair has said, do you swear that the  
20 evidence that you will be providing to the Commission will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? If so, raise your right hand and say, so help me God.

**WITNESS X**: So help me God.

**CHAIRPERSON**: Thank you. Ms Hassim?

**WITNESS X**: (duly sworn states)

**EXAMINATION BY ADV HASSIM SC:** Thank you, Chair.

Mr X, I need to confirm, first of all, whether you are alone in the location where you are.

**WITNESS X:** Yes, I am alone, Commissioners.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** And secondly, I would like to confirm the documentation that you have before you and that we will be referring to during the proceedings.

**WITNESS X:** Okay.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** You should have five files before you.

10 The first is...

**WITNESS X:** Correct, Commissioners.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** The first is a file with your statement. Do you have that?

**WITNESS X:** Yes, I do.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** The second is a file that contains the annexures to your statement.

**WITNESS X:** Yes, I do.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** The third is a file that has annexures WB1 to WB2.

20 **WITNESS X:** That is correct.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** The fourth is a file that has Annexures WB3 to WB6.

**WITNESS X:** That is correct, I do have.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** And the fifth and last file is a file that has Annexures WB7.

**WITNESS X**: Correct.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Can I confirm that you have no other material with you?

**WITNESS X**: No, I do not have any other material.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Thank you.

**ADV BALOYI SC**: Before you start, I just want to check something with the Chair.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Witness X, the first thing I think it is important for us to begin with is to confirm that you also  
10 have, as part of your statement, a document called Confidential Annexure A.

**WITNESS X**: Yes, I do.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Can I ask you to turn to that document, please?

**WITNESS X**: Okay, I am on that document.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: In paragraphs 1 to 3, you describe who you are and your role and your job description. Can you confirm that the contents of those paragraphs are true and correct?

20 **WITNESS X**: The contents of paragraphs 1 and 2 are correct.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: And paragraph 3?

**WITNESS X**: That is also correct.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: And then in paragraphs 4 to 10, you explain the reasons for requesting that you provide

evidence confidentially. Is that right?

**WITNESS X**: That is correct, Commissioners.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Can you confirm that the contents of those paragraphs, that is paragraphs 4 to 10, are true and correct?

**WITNESS X**: The paragraphs are true and correct, Commissioners.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Thank you. You can set that aside. We will now turn to your statement.

10 **WITNESS X**: Okay.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: At the outset of the statement, you explain what you will be covering during your evidence, and you set that out in paragraphs 1 to 4. Can you just describe what you have contained, what you have said in paragraphs 1 to 4 for the Commission, in summary?

**WITNESS X**: Okay, thank you, Commissioners. In summary, on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September this year, 2025, the Divisional Commissioner, Lt-Gen Khumalo, delivered his evidence in the Commission and he had set out that he  
20 would present chats between a Mr Matala and five individuals. The individuals being a Mr Brown Mogotsi, Maj-Gen Senona, Brigadier Mkhwanazi, Mr Rafadi, and Mr Kareem. Unfortunately, due to the General falling ill, he could not continue with his testimony. I, therefore, will present the remaining chats in that aspect.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Thank you. So, continue.

**WITNESS X:** As indicated on paragraph 5, the cell phone numbers have been cross-checked from our system, the SAPS, and can confirm they are registered to the individuals who are the subjects of today.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Thank you. And just to confirm, those individuals are the following. Maj-Gen Senona, Mr Mkhwanazi.

**WITNESS X:** Correct.

10 **ADV HASSIM SC:** Mr Rafadi, and Mr Kareem.

**WITNESS X:** Correct, Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Just so there is no confusion, this is Brigadier Mkhwanazi and not Maj-Gen Mkhwanazi who testified before us.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** This Mkhwanazi, Chair, is a different ...[intervenes].

**CHAIRPERSON:** Yes, that is – I am not asking a question.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Okay.

20 **CHAIRPERSON:** I am just saying for the record, ja, so that people listening or viewing should not think we are talking about Lt-Gen Mkhwanazi. This is Brigadier Mkhwanazi.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** That is correct, Chair. To be more specific, the Deputy Chief of Police of the Ekurhuleni Metro Police Department. Okay, Witness X, let us begin then with the WhatsApp chats between Mr Matlala and Maj-Gen

Senona. Can you begin by explaining who is the Maj-Gen Senona in these chats?

**WITNESS X**: Thank you, Commissioners. Maj-Gen Senona is the head of the DPCI in the KZN province.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: And we can, if we start at page 1 of the chats, we see that the conversation begins on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2024, and it ends on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2025. Is that correct?

**WITNESS X**: That is correct, Commissioners.

10 **ADV HASSIM SC**: And I see from your statement that there are certain themes that arise for you in this conversation that you would like to emphasise. Without going into the detail, can you just itemise the themes that you will be taking the Commission through?

**WITNESS X**: The first theme is the beneficial relationship the General has with Mr Matlala. The second one being General Senona's interest in protecting Mr Matlala. The last theme would be sharing of institutional and confidential information.

20 **ADV HASSIM SC**: Thank you. So, we will deal with the chats under those themes, but it may be necessary at times to look at a chat that might not be reproduced in your statement. Do you confirm that that is how we will proceed?

**WITNESS X**: Yes, I confirm, Commissioners.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** So, can you start then with the first theme at paragraph 9?

**WITNESS X:** Thank you, Commissioners. Maj-Gen Senona has a close and beneficial relationship with an alleged criminal. The criminal is implicated in serious crimes, including attempted murder, fraud and corruption.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Okay, thank you. And you then say in paragraph 10, and we will see as we proceed through these chats, that there are numerous calls between the two individuals and numerous efforts to set up meetings. Is that correct?

**WITNESS X:** That is correct, Commissioners. And you will also see the close relationship that Mr Matlala has with the General's son and what seems to be the purchase of a property.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** And you refer to the name of the son. Can you confirm that this is indeed the son of General Senona?

**WITNESS X:** That is correct, Commissioners. Thato is the son of Maj-Gen Senona.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** And we will go through the exchanges, and you have referred to a purchase of property, but have you been able to establish whether that purchase actually was concluded?

**WITNESS X:** We have not been able to confirm whether

the purchase went through or not.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** So, if we can turn then to the exchanges that reflect this aspect? And that is at, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, beginning now in January 2025. Can you read out that exchange, please? General Senona, on 9 January 2025 at 17:39, texts Matlala and says the following:

“Good afternoon, brother. Did you meet with Thato?”

Of which Mr Matlala responds and says:

10 “Tomorrow. I am waiting for offer to purchase first.”

**ADV HASSIM SC:** And then following that same theme, the next exchange on this topic is on 24 January 2025. Is that correct?

**WITNESS X:** That is correct, Commissioners.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Can you turn to that chat and read that in for the record?

**WITNESS X:** On 24 January 2025 at 18:22, Cat sends the following message to General Senona. The message reads:

20 “Afternoon, Nduna. Can you please Thato to send me his FICA documents? I sent message and called. He is not responding. It is okay, he called me back.”

**ADV HASSIM SC:** And then following in the same theme,

the next exchange is on 6 February 2025. Can you turn to that exchange and explain what is happening there?

**WITNESS X**: On the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, Mr Matlala forwards a screenshot to General Senona. The screenshot is a conversation with Mr Matlala and an agent at REMAX, which contained an offer to purchase a property. The very same screenshots were sent to Thato Senona on 24 January 2025.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: So, you can just pause there. Those  
10 screenshots that are shared, the same screenshots you say that were shared with Thato Senona, are contained in a separate chat between Mr Matlala and Thato Senona. Is that correct?

**WITNESS X**: That is correct, Commissioners.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: And that is the set of chats that is contained in WB3?

**WITNESS X**: Correct, Commissioners.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: So, if we cross-reference with WB3,  
20 page 3, is that the same set of screenshots that you are referring to?

**WITNESS X**: That is correct, Commissioners.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: That is the screenshots regarding the purchase of this property, and it is from Mr Matlala to Thato Senona on 24 January, so it is on the same day.

**WITNESS X**: It is on the same day.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Thank you.

**ADV BALOYI SC:** Can I just check? That paragraph 13 has got two parts to it in the statement. There is a reference to the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, with screenshots being forwarded, but it does not say to whom. And then there is the second part, which is the 24<sup>th</sup> of January, where the screenshots were forwarded to Thato. And my question is, does the first part, which references the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, is it forwarding to Thato on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February?

10 **ADV HASSIM SC:** Thank you, Commissioner. Witness X, the question is, if you see your paragraph 13, there are two aspects to it. The first deals with 6 February 2025, where you speak of forwarded screenshots, screenshots that Mr Matlala forwards. Can you just confirm whether these are the screenshots that are forwarded from Thato Senona or from someone else?

**WITNESS X:** These are screenshots captured by Mr Matlala and then he sends them to Maj-Gen Senona and to Thato Senona.

20 **ADV HASSIM SC:** So, if you look at the content of that screenshot, maybe that will help to get a sense of where it originated.

**WITNESS X:** Yes.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** And it begins with:

“Good morning, just checking how far

are you with the OTP.”

Is the OTP referring to the offer to purchase?

**WITNESS X**: That is correct.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: And then it contains attachments for FICA information and an offer to purchase. Is that correct?

**WITNESS X**: That is correct.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: And it is followed by a message that says:

“Good morning, Vusi.”

10 And then a response.

**CHAIRPERSON**: What is displayed on screen does not appear to keep pace with us or with the evidence.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: It is on page 5 of this document.

**CHAIRPERSON**: I have got it, ja, but it is just what is showing on screen.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: It is just on the screenshot.

**CHAIRPERSON**: Ja.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: So maybe if I can assist the – it is the screenshot of 6 February. Do you have it? Okay. Okay.

20 So, to go back to that, so the content of that screenshot, it says:

“Good morning, Vusi.”

And then the response:

“Please call me when you have a moment.”

Do you know who that exchange is between?

**WITNESS X**: Yes, Commissioners. From the screenshots it appears that Mr Matala is having a conversation with the estate agent, of which the estate agent takes to say:

“Good morning, Vusi.”

Mr Matala then responds:

“Please call me when you have a moment.”

And we see there a voice call lasting three minutes.

10 **ADV HASSIM SC**: Followed by?

**WITNESS X**: Followed by an instruction on what should be done next, where the text reads as follows, which reads as follows:

“On the OTP under point number 34, you can state how you want to make payment. You can fill in all your details on both documents I have sent.”

**ADV HASSIM SC**: So, is it your evidence that this exchange is a forwarded message from the estate agent to  
20 General Senona?

**ADV CHASKALSON SC**: Chair, I am sorry to interrupt. We have a slight problem on ...[intervenes].

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Sorry, Witness X, please – sorry, Chair, the witness was speaking because – can you please pause for a moment?

**ADV CHASKALSON SC:** We have a slight problem on the feed. Can I ask for a five-minute adjournment while we sort this out? I am sorry just to do that.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Let us adjourn. We will come back when you indicate that we should.

**INQUIRY ADJOURNS**

**INQUIRY RESUMES**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Yes, Ms Hassim?

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Chair, we had to adjourn abruptly this  
10 morning due to technical difficulties, which we have explained to you in chambers, and I am in your hands, Chair.

**RULING**

**CHAIRPERSON:** I am sorry. As Ms Hassim says, we ran into technical difficulties that had the potential of endangering the safety of Witness X. As a result, we have decided to stop proceeding in accordance with the ruling made by agreement this morning. This decision has not been taken lightly because this Commission values and  
20 respects transparency. Transparency is not transparency for transparency's sake. It is about the interest that the public has on matters that affect them, and this interest is founded in our constitutional values of accountability, responsiveness, and openness. So we share any possible concerns that the public may have about the ruling that we

are about to make.

Transparency cannot be at the risk of endangering the safety of Witness X. Thus, we must adopt a different format on how Witness X's evidence must be tendered. In due course, the Commission will decide on how and when questions may be asked with regard to the testimony. In sum, the Commission makes the following ruling:

[1]. The evidence of Witness X will be tendered in a different format.

10 [2]. The evidence leader that was leading Witness X will read Witness X's statement into the record.

I hand down the ruling.

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**CHAIRPERSON**: Ms Hassim?

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Thank you, Chair. In accordance with that ruling then, we left off with the witness just before paragraph 14 of the statement. May I proceed from paragraph 14 onwards?

**CHAIRPERSON**: Please do. Thank you.

20 **ADV HASSIM SC**: And to clarify, Chair, we will still project the content of the chats as I read through the statement. So beginning at paragraph 14, the statement reads as follows:

“In parallel with the interaction that Mr Matlala has with Maj-Gen Senona is an

interaction with Mr Thato Senona. The cell phone number for Mr Thato Senona is linked to TSB Shuttle Services, a company the sole director of which is Thato Senona.”

And there is a footnote at the end of that sentence with a reference to WB3, page 8. And, Chair, if you go to WB3, page 8, it is the company information for TSB Shuttle Services:

10                   “Mr Thato Senona sends several attachments to Mr Matlala, including a copy of his identity document, bank account records, company registration documents for TSB Shuttle Services (Pty) Limited and Thato Senona Holdings (Pty) Limited, company insurance, confirmation of registration as a contractor with the Construction Industry Development Board, a BEE

20                   certificate for Thato Senona Holdings and a SARS Tax Compliance Certificate for Thato Senona Holdings. These appear to be sent as a package of FICA documents as requested by Mr Matlala. On 10 January 2025, Mr

Matlala updates Mr T Senona on the offer to purchase.”

And then there is a chat in the statement. Chair, this is an extract of the chat between Mr Matlala and Mr Thato Senona, not General Senona. And it is to be found at WB3, page 2, this chat, and it reads as follows:

“Mr Matlala, I think the OTP will be ready by Tuesday or Wednesday latest, but I will keep in touch.”

10 TSB Services, an emoji with a thumbs up:

“The offer to purchase appears to relate to a property purchase that Mr Matlala was facilitating to Mr Thato Senona.”

And again, there is a footnote with the reference WB3, page 3 and page 6. The next heading is Senona's interest in protecting Mr Matlala:

20 “Maj-Gen Senona expresses concern regarding Mr Matlala's tender with the SAPS, appears to assist Mr Matlala with regard to the payment of invoices submitted by Mr Matlala's company, Medicare 24 Tshwane, and shares information with Mr Matlala relating to the PKTT. The following exchanges

are illustrative.”

The first exchange is on 25 December 2024, and it reads:

“Merry Christmas, Nduna. Sorry. That night I met that guy very late, could not even notify you. I am coming back again tomorrow, though he needs to give me feedback.”

The response from General Senona is a picture of a thank you. On 28 December 2024, there is a message from

10 General Senona:

“I trust that you are fine under the circumstances.”

Response:

“The guy I went to see really helped. I will tell you whenever you back this side. Monday I am starting with our project. Nothing is disturbing me anymore.”

General Senona:

20 “That is great news, my brother. I am coming back that side tomorrow, a week.”

And then:

“On 2 January 2025, Maj-Gen Senona forwards to Mr Matlala the letter of 31

December 2024 from Minister Mchunu to the National Commissioner. I have subsequently learned that there was a meeting with the Minister on 24 December 2024, raising queries on the Medicare 24 Tshwane contract. We also see from the Mogotsi chat that around this date, Mr Matlala was having a conversation with Mogotsi regarding assistance from ‘the IPID guy’ to effect an arrest.”

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Adv Hassin, just for the record, in paragraph 19, the letter of 31 December 2024 is the letter that we have come to know as the letter disbanding the PKTT.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** That is correct, Commissioner Khumalo. It is the now infamous letter of 31 December 2024. It is annexed to the chat as SEN1, Commissioner Khumalo:

“On 2 January 2025, Maj-Gen Senona forwards to Mr Matlala the letter of 31 December 2024 from Minister Mchunu to the National Commissioner, in which he issues a directive for the disestablishment of the PKTT. It is referenced as SEN1. This is another

example of a person forwarding the disbandment letter to Mr Matlala. It seems to me that they are all aware that Mr Matlala is under investigation by General Khumalo's team, and that the disbandment may lead to removing General Khumalo as a threat to Mr Matlala. On 15 January 2025, Maj-Gen Senona refers to finalising a contract for certain individuals who have been of assistance to him and Mr Matlala. The chat is reproduced as follows, General Senona:

10

“I will be in Pretoria next week. I request that if things are favourable, let us finalise the contract for those guys who assisted us.”

20

On the same day, 15 January 2025, Mr Matlala forwards to Maj-Gen Senona a screenshot of a SAPS programme that captures invoice records. This is data to which only authorised personnel within the finance section of SAPS would have access. It appears to be an entry into the system relating to a

supplier, in which the following is recorded.”

And the quote is, invoices to be uploaded. Chair, if you see the extract, it is a screengrab of that computer programme, which says invoices to be uploaded:

“The forwarded screenshot is followed immediately with the message:

“Let me know when you around.”

That is from Mr Matlala. General Senona:

10

“I will do so, sir.”

On 5 March 2025, Maj-Gen Senona checks in on Mr Matlala. At 06:44am, General Senona says:

“I trust that you are doing well.”

At 06:54am, Mr Matlala responds:

“I am coping ...[indistinct].”

20

On the same day, Maj-Gen Senona forwards a News24 article alleging tender fraud by Mr Matlala in relation to the R360-million contract between Medicare 24 and the SAPS for health services. This is followed by a series of phone calls between Mr Matlala and Maj-Gen Senona on the same day.

Presumably, the calls are related to the contract.

The image on the next page is the image of the article just referred to:

10 “On 6 March 2025, Maj-Gen Senona forwards an ENCA media report that Lt-Gen Mkhwanazi does not intend to apply for the position of National Head of DPCI. The advertisement for the post was published on 9 February 2025 with a closing date of 21 February 2025.”

And that is the article that is projected on the screen, The ENCA media report:

20 “On 14 April 2025, Mr Matlala reminds General Senona to enquire from ‘our brother’ about a female who appears to be causing a problem for him. The identity of our brother is unknown. It is 14 April 2025 at 13:40, where Mr Matlala says:

“Oh, Nduna, please do not forget to ask our brother about that lady who is stirring problems.”

The response from General Senona is an image of a person

with a thumbs up:

10 “On 24 April 2025, Maj-Gen Senona forwards a screenshot of a WhatsApp exchange between him and Lt-Gen Khumalo that appears to have taken place on the same day. I will say more about this in *camera*. Lt-Gen Khumalo will testify to this meeting when he next appears before the Commission. The image is 24 April 2025 at 10:15am and it reflects a screenshot of a conversation which appears to be between General Senona and General Khumalo, which reads as follows:

“Good morning, General. Morning, General, can I call?”

20 On 13 May 2025, Mr Matlala forwards to Maj-Gen Senona the letter from the National Commissioner to Mr Mike Van Wyk, the Operational Director of Medicare 24, terminating the contract between SAPS and Medicare 24 pursuant to the award of a tender for the supply of health risk management services to the SAPS for a period of

three years. The letter is dated 12 May 2025 and it is attached to this WhatsApp exchange as SEN6. The following exchange then ensued.”

So this is still 13 May 2025 at 15:07pm:

“General Senona:

“This is so sad and it leaves one with choice but to seek legal advice on this issue with a view to challenge this decision.”

10

Matlala:

“True. My advocate advised I should make interdict within 48 hours.”

Senona:

“Take them on, brother.”

Matlala:

“I am on it.”

Senona, an image of a pair of hands and the words thank you. This is followed by an audio call from Mr Matlala at 20 16:17pm. On the same day is a letter to – Mr Matlala sends a draft letter to SAPS National dated 13 May 2025. This is attached as SEN7 and SEN7 is the letter from Medicare 24's attorneys to the SAPS regarding the cancellation of the contract.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Ms Hassin, I think just for the record,

especially when we later read without the benefit of your presence, the SEN Annexures that you are referring to, perhaps if you could say on the record where are they from?

**ADV HASSIM SC:** The page number?

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** In the bundles.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** In the bundles?

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Which bundle, and...

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Let me begin with SEN7 now as we go on. So, Chair, the 12 May letter, the one I just referred to  
10 before the SEN7 was SEN6 and that is the letter to Mr Mike Van Wyk and that is to be found at page 300 of the bundle, followed immediately by SEN7, which is at page 305 of the bundle. SEN7 being the letter from Medicare 24's attorneys to the National Commissioner. So that was sent on 13 May and then on 14 May is a voice call at 07:34am from Mr Matlala followed by a business card, a contact card that General Senona sends to Mr Matlala with the contact details for one Cele.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Adv Hassim, just for the record, the  
20 witness does not say who this Cele is.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** The witness does not say in the statement who it is.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** And the reason why that is important is we have a former Minister Cele who has been mentioned by other witnesses. So I think for the purposes of the

record, just to make it clear that it does not specifically refer to.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** It is not apparent from the statement who this refers to, yes. The next heading is sharing of confidential institutional and other information:

10                   “On 6 February 2025, Mr Matlala sends Senona a video clip which appears to be a secret recording of an internal audit meeting within SAPS in which the speaker is heard to say that the non-performance process has started. It sounds to me that the voice belongs to Lt-Gen Nkhua. The contract in question appears to be that of Mr Matlala's company, Medicare 24 Tshwane (Pty) Limited. Mr Matlala is the sole shareholder of this company.”

20                   And for that statement, there is a footnote reference to an Annexure GUN2 at paragraph 11, and that is a reference to another chat which is not in these bundles. It is to come in later evidence.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** And that is also the GUN will come in later.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** In the later evidence.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Okay.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** So the audio clip, Chair, if we could just play that?

[AUDIO CLIP PLAYED BACK]

10 “I am ready to take the kids to the college on the 4<sup>th</sup>. So by Monday, if we have not received anything, we close. We will understand members that are short, and that process of the non-performance by the service provider, that process I have already directed that it must start.”

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Chair, was that audible, or do you need it to be played again? Play it again.

[AUDIO CLIP PLAYED BACK]

20 “I am ready to take the kids to the college on the 4<sup>th</sup>. So by Monday, if we have not received anything, we close. We will understand members that are short, and that process of the non-performance by the service provider, that process I have already directed that it must start.”

**ADV HASSIM SC:**

“On 10 March 2025, Maj-Gen Senona forwards to Mr Matlala a series of

documents concerning a complaint by two incarcerated individuals against a private security company and officers within SAPS. The complaint is quite convoluted, but relates to alleged kidnapping, extortion and assault. The significance of this transmission of information to Mr Matlala is unclear at this stage.”

10 And, Chair, the attachment is SEN 2 and SEN 2 is at page 65 of the bundle:

“On 13 April 2025, Mr Matlala forwards three documents to Maj-Gen Senona. [1] The results of a LexisNexis WinDeed search on the Senzo and Thembeke Mchunu Foundation.

20 [2] A document titled Memo Biz Traces to April 2020 containing information relating to what appears to be multiple identity numbers for President Ramaphosa. The ‘strictly confidential’ memo includes recommendations for the destruction of company records at ‘CIPRO, SARS and Quartz [?] of ‘computer mainframe files

encapsulating the abovementioned sensitive information’ and to ‘close the bank account linked to the identity documents which are in question except the common identity number’.”

And then the identity number followed, but it has been redacted:

10 “Biz Traces is a company registered to Mr Rafadi, a person with whom Mr Matlala also has a relationship. The provenance of this document and the significance of this transmission of information to Mr Matlala is unclear at this stage.

20 [3] A news article from 5 August 2019, publisher unidentified, reporting allegations of tender fraud in a local municipality in the North West regarding the procurement of a fleet of vehicles from the KSP Group, apparently a construction and engineering company. The significance of this transmission of information to Mr Matlala is unclear at this stage.”

That then concludes the analysis of the chats between Mr

Matlala and General Senona.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Ms Hassim, can I just check this? In that paragraph 35 where it opens, it says Mr Matlala forwards three documents. You described that. And then at 35.2, the witness says:

“The provenance of this document and the significance of this transmission to Mr Matlala.”

Remember, you started off saying it is Mr Matlala that is forwarding documents. Is that a typo, maybe?

**ADV HASSIM SC:** I think it is meant to be from Mr Matlala, not to Mr Matlala.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Okay.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** And that is obvious from the record that it is actually forwarded by Mr Matlala.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Thank you.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** The next exchange and the next WhatsApp chat record relates to Mr Suleiman Kareem. Chair, those WhatsApp records are in File 3, Annexure WB7. And we see from the first page, and I will revert to reading from the statement:

“the chat between Mr Matlala and Mr Kareem begins on 11 December 2024 and ends on 14 May 2025. Lt-Gen Khumalo confirmed that the profile of

the number belongs to Suleiman Kareem, a businessman and ANC member from the North West Province. On 17 December 2024, Mr Matlala forwards to Mr Kareem a spreadsheet indicating the number of medical tests issued by province as at 11 December 2024.”

And that is attached to the chat as SUL1 and it is at page  
10 33 of the bundle:

“Given that the contract between Medicare 24 and SAPS was for the medical screening of SAPS officers, it would seem that this spreadsheet is linked to that contract. It appears that Mr Matlala relies on Mr Kareem for assistance with the submission of invoices. The WhatsApp extract that follows is from 7 January 2025  
20 beginning as follows. Matlala:

“Salam brother, now is the time to start invoicing. Was wondering if I can see you before we send invoices. I can even come to your place. Please advise.”

The response on the same morning, 7 January 2025 at 07:23 from Mr Kareem is:

“Morning, Mr C. I am already in Cape Town.”

Matlala:

“Okay, let me know when you are back.”

10 On 30 January 2025, Mr Matlala follows up with Mr Kareem regarding payment.

The WhatsApp chat extracts begin on 30 January 2025 as follows. Matlala:

“Salam, brother. Can you please check with your guys how far is the payment?”

Kareem:

“Checking. Will revert.”

Matlala:

“Okay, thanks.”

20 Then on 31 January 2025 at 10:04am from Kareem to Matlala:

“Morning. They say PMT is done. I am waiting for the remittance.”

Matlala:

“Okay, I will be waiting.”

And then that was Okay, I will be waiting at 10:06am. At quarter past three, the same afternoon, Mr Matlala says:

“You winning with the remittance?”

Mr Kareem replies:

“Not yet. The lady insists it is paid. I am just waiting for some proof.”

The response from Mr Matlala:

“Okay, we will see when it appears in the account.”

10 This is followed the next day, one, no, two days later, 2 January 2025. Pardon me, 1 February 2025 with a phone call between Mr Kareem and Mr Matlala, and a further call on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2025:

20 “On 3 February 2025, Mr Matlala forwards to Mr Kareem a screenshot of an internal SAPS finance software screen which captures payments of invoices by supplier. The screen reflects the supplier as Medicare 24 Tshwane and lists payment dates and amounts paid to the supplier. According to the screenshot, payments were made on 31 January 2025 and deposits are due to reflect four days later on 4 February 2025. The total

amount paid reflects as R2 586  
007.62.”

The message, the caption accompanying the screenshot in  
the chat is as follows:

“Confirmed all checks to be delivered  
2025-02-04 tomorrow.”

This is followed immediately by an  
exchange confirming that payment is  
imminent and Mr Matlala requests an  
10 account number from Mr Kareem.  
Payment is later made to this account  
by Mr Kareem Matlala.”

And the account is at Annexure SUL2, which is at page 34  
of the bundle, and it is the FNB bank account that is  
forwarded by Mr Kareem to Mr Matlala, bank account  
details. The account holder ...[intervenes].

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Sorry, can I just check? You said  
page 34?

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Yes.

20 **ADV KHUMALO SC:** Okay.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** 34, it starts at 34 and goes to page 35.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Okay, yes, that is what I was  
checking.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Yes, it goes on for, ja, two pages.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** All right, and that details

...[intervenues].

**ADV HASSIM SC:** So page 35 is the ...[intervenues].

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Account details, yes. And I am saying the account details are on 35 in fact.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** The account details are on page 35 which reflects the account holder as Tameez Investments (Pty) Limited. Immediately following this paragraph 42 is the screenshot of the WhatsApp chat that confirms the contents of the paragraph, SUL2 again being the bank  
10 account details. Paragraph 43:

“On 4 February 2025 Mr Matlala sends proof of payment to Mr Kareem in the amount of R1 500 000. On the same day, Mr Kareem confirms receipt.”

So, that proof of payment is at SUL3 and that is on page 36 of the bundle, which has the payer and payee details in the amount:

20 “Also, on 4 February 2025 Mr Matlala calls Mr Kareem, which is followed by a message that one Morgan is sorted. This is possibly a reference to Morgan Hangwani Maumela with whom Mr Matlala also communicates via WhatsApp and which will be referred to in further detail in *camera*.”

That WhatsApp exchange is reflected just below paragraph 44, where at on 4 February 2025 at 15:17 in the afternoon Mr Kareem says Morgan is sorted. Mr Matlala responds thank you:

10                   “The infographic below illustrates payments that are made from Medicare 24 to Tameez Investments and outgoing payments from Tameez Investments to Mr Kareem and Mr Brown Mogotsi, amongst others. I will explain the links during my oral evidence. The relevant bank statements are attached as X1 and the confirmation that Mr Kareem is the bank card holder for Tameez Investments is attached as X2.”

20                   Chair, the infographic immediately follows that paragraph. X1 and X2 are in a separate folder titled annexures. X1 contains bank records and X2 is a form from the bank that confirms the card holder information for Tameez Investments which reflects Mr Kareem as a card holder on that account.

                  I will take guidance from you, Chair, on whether you would like me to give a brief overview of the infographic or not. Perhaps what I can do is just indicate, without

analysing this infographic, that what it depicts is a – sorry, I am going to have to look at my own screen so that I can see it clearly. What it depicts is, at the very top, the name of the company, Tameez Investments, with the name of the sole director, the name of the cardholder, Mr Kareem, and the bank account number for that company.

And then it has – and you have got to follow the arrows at the bottom of the infographic – it has the sole shareholder of Medicare 24 as Mr Matlala. It has the name  
10 of the director of Medicare 24, and then the arrows go up to show payments from Medicare 24 into this company's account, Tameez Investments, and there are two payments that are reflected.

One is 4 February 2025 in the amount of R1 500 000, which corresponds with what I have just read from the statement, and then one on 17 March 2025 in the amount of R1 000 000. And then the right-hand side of the infographic shows outgoing payments from the company during the period August 2023 to January 2025. The amount is R92  
20 000 into an FNB account number, which belongs to Gotlhe Specialists, and the sole director of Gotlhe Specialists is a Ms Ledwaba, who is indicated as being linked to Mr Brown Mogotsi, and we have had evidence in this Commission from General Khumalo before about Gotlhe Specialists and Mr Mogotsi. So the infographic shows the incoming and

outgoing payments as reflected.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Just so that we are clear, Adv Hassim, is that payment the same R110 000 or R111 000 that we heard about during the testimony of General Khumalo? The payments relating to the January 8 Cape Town event?

**ADV HASSIM SC:** I cannot say at this stage, Commissioner Khumalo. What I can say is that it is showing R92 000, which is different from the R111 000 and  
10 the R38 000 that we heard about in previous evidence.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Yes.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Other than that, I do not know what this relates to. And it is not evident from the witness's statement either what it relates to:

20 “On 4 March 2025, Mr Matlala sends a message to Mr Kareem saying alhamdulillah, Allah is great, in reference to a media post reporting that charges against Maj-Gen Khan were dismissed.”

So that is 4 March 2025. And the report, it looks – there is no publisher reflected. It says breaking news, SAPS crime intelligence tops book not guilty (bogus witnesses/bogus evidence), and then it is the content of the media report. Unless you wish me to, Chair, I will not read out the media

report.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Perhaps only the heading, Ms Hassim.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** I will read out the heading again. It says, breaking news, SAPS crime intelligence tops book not guilty (bogus witnesses/bogus evidence):

10 “On 7 March 2025, Mr Matlala again sends Mr Kareem a screenshot of an internal SAPS payment screen used by the finance section. It shows the outstanding payments due to Medicare 24 Tshwane District in the amount of R13 565 978.60. On 10 March 2025, Mr Kareem enquires whether ‘they’ paid, Followed by another screenshot of the finance programme record.”

That is reflected at the end of paragraph 48. Did they pay?

And then the screenshot on 10 March 2025:

20 “The record in that screenshot shows nine new payments for March dated 6 March 2025. The payments record is immediately followed by an audio recording of a SAPS official with insight into the internal SAPS payment system. The person confirms that partial payments to suppliers have

been made and speculates that delays could be related to financial constraints at the end of the financial year.”

If we could play that audio clip, please.?

[AUDIO CLIP PLAYED BACK]

10 “Hi, James. I just sent you a picture. I saw our budgets division did do a partial payment of those schedules that are waiting for payment run. I saw also within my normal IOD environment that even in that environment, they only paid certain invoices. So I am not sure whether we – so our end of the financial year, maybe there is budget constraints. I am not sure, but it seems like that there is partial payments going around. So I thought I would let you know.”

And then:

20 “A series of exchanges setting up meetings then take place until 23 March 2025, when Mr Matlala forwards the news 24 article reporting that the National Commissioner has been ordered to terminate the contract with

Medicare 24 Tshwane District. This is immediately followed with the following exchange where Mr Matlala expresses shock that the Minister is responsible for the probe against his company. The exchange is as follows. 23 March 2025, 09:09am. Mr Matlala:

10 “Salaam, I am shocked to hear that the Minister is the one who instituted the probe against my company.”

Response from Mr Kareem at 09:14am:

“I do not think so, Mr C. I think we should see him together.”

Mr Matlala:

“You will let me know whenever he is ready.”

That is all on 23 March 2025. And then on 24 March 2025 from Mr Matlala at 08:01am, Mr Matlala responds:

20 “Can I come see you later today? I remember you mentioned that you know someone higher in SARS.”

Kareem replies:

“Waslam [?], yes.”

Mr Matlala responds:

“Can I come at 13:00?”

Mr Kareem responds:

“Remember I am in NW. I will calm later to drive back tomorrow.”

I think it is be, I will call later. I am not sure:

“I will calm later to drive back tomorrow.”

10 “After further voice calls and a meeting on 16 April 2025, Mr Matlala sends Mr Kareem hundreds of forms by SAPS authorising medical surveillance for named police officers, which Mr Matlala refers to as purchase orders. Conducting medical surveillance is a component of the contract with Medicare 24 Tshwane District.”

And then attached to the WhatsApp chat are a series of annexures which contain those purchase orders, which begin on page 38 and continue to page 364. After sending these annexures, Mr Matlala says 17 April 2025, 08:25am:

20 “Morning, this purchase orders, they make them per individual. It is quite a lot. I just sent few to see how they look like.”

That is followed by a call. And then on 22 April 2025:

“Salaam, just checking if we winning?”

Response by Mr Kareem at 09:19am:

“Wasalaam, I will revert later.”

On 6 May 2025, Mr Matlala requests to speak to Mr Kareem, and the exchange is contained in that paragraph. Mr Matlala says:

“Salaam, do you have a minute? There is something I need to ask you.”

Mr Kareem responds:

“Yes, call you now.”

10 And then that is followed by a telephone call:

“After the phone conversation, Mr Kareem forwards a message, which appears to be a message that he sent to the Minister of Police sometime earlier. This is the same message that Mr Matlala forwarded to Mr Mogotsi on 4 March 2025.”

Chair, that would be reflected in the Bundle WB1, which is where the Mogotsi chats are located. So that is form –  
20 sorry, this is 6 May 2025. And the message from Mr Kareem, that is a forwarded message, reads as follows:

“Good morning, Minister. I just received a call from our guy, who is a service provider for our health risk management project. He has got very

serious concerns. Apparently you gave a directive to scrutinise his contract and while they are at it, they must stall as much as they can to release purchase orders until you guys come up with something that can warrant the termination of service.”

That message is followed by a message from Mr Kareem that reads as follows:

10                   “Sent him this. Then he called. I am sending you what to write.”

**ADV KHUMALO SC:**    Sorry, Ms Hassim, where you say then he called, is that Mr Kareem saying to Mr Mogotsi?

**ADV HASSIM SC:**    Yes.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:**    Or is Mr Kareem calling? I just want that the record should be clear.

**ADV HASSIM SC:**    No, no, sorry, it is Mr Kareem calling. So the text, the first text message is:

                  “Sent him this.”

20   Next message is:

                  “Then he called.”

Next message is:

                  “I am sending you what to write.”

Then there is an audio call between the two.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:**    I am assuming that, let me not

assume, we do not have the benefit of the witness here. Perhaps this is one of the questions you would have asked. The him and the he referred to in the chats, who is that? So perhaps we could get a supplementary statement addressing those. I do not venture into speculation, so I would rather not say who I assume it refers to. I would rather the witness completes the picture for us.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** That is right, Commissioner Khumalo. This would have been something the witness would have  
10 addressed in oral evidence, but it is best dealt with in a supplementary, and I will make a note of that and obtain an answer to the question:

“The above exchange is followed by a series of phone calls and at least one meeting until 13 May 2025 when Mr Matlala forwards a letter from the attorneys for Medicare 24, Tshwane District (Pty) Limited to the National Commissioner challenging the  
20 termination of their contract (appointment of a service provider to render health risk management to the SAPS for a period of three years) by SAPS. On 14 May 2025, Mr Matlala shares a screenshot of an email from

the Head of Legal Services in SAPS to the attorneys for Medicare 24 Tshwane District acknowledging receipt of their correspondence and informing them that she will bring it to the attention of the National Commissioner.”

So that is 14 May 2025, and the content of that email as reflected in the screengrab is:

10           “Dear Ms Pretorius, good afternoon. Receipt of your correspondence is hereby acknowledged. I will bring it to the attention of the National Commissioner for Instruction and revert ASAP. Regards.”

Mr Matlala then shares the name of two advocates with Mr Kareem and suggests that he check whether they are strong or not. The message is:

                  “These are the advocates. You can ask around if they are strong or not.”

20   That then concludes the analysis of the chat between Mr Matlala and Mr Kareem:

                  “The next chat is the conversation between Mr Matlala and Mr Julius Mkhwanazi (EMPD).”

Chair, we just need 30 seconds, I think, to locate the chat:

“The chat between Mr Matlala and Mr Mkhwanazi, reflected as General Mkhwanazi, begins on 13 February 2025 and ends on 12 May 2025. Lt-Gen Khumalo confirmed that the number is registered to Mr Julius Mkhwanazi, Deputy Chief of the Ekurhuleni Metro Police Department. The first heading is Benefit to Mr Matlala. Throughout the exchanges, the two individuals address each other in a manner that indicates a close relationship. For example, on 16 March 2025, Mr Mkhwanazi says:

10

“My blood brother.”

Mr Matlala responds:

“Good morning, Ngamla.”

On 7 March 2025, Mr Matlala makes a specific request for assistance and intervention by Mr Mkhwanazi regarding the arrest of his driver on an offence of exceeding the speed limit.”

20

Perhaps I will just read the chat first and then the explanation, Chair. So, the chat begins on 7 March 2025 and it is reflected as General Mkhwanazi who says:

“My Ngamla.”

And then Mr Matlala who says:

“Crystal Park Police Station.”

That is followed by a voice call and then a message from Mr Matlala saying:

“Driving 90 on a 60 zone.”

Followed by the next message with a name Given Mafokane, followed by a phone number indicating his phone number, meaning Mr Mafokane's phone number. The statement goes

10 on to read:

“I have established that Mr Given Mafokane is Mr Matlala's righthand man. He has been arrested and charged in at least eight cases including fraud, robbery with firearm, possession of stolen properties. Six of the cases were withdrawn and he was found guilty on two.”

And then there is an audio clip in the chat. If we could play  
20 that voice note? Apologies, Chair. I think we are just trying to find the right version of the audio clip.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Perhaps we should take the lunch adjournment and you can find it and when we resume, you start playing it.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** I would appreciate that. Thank you,

Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON**: Let us resume at 14:30. Let us adjourn.

**INQUIRY ADJOURNS**

**INQUIRY RESUMES**

**CHAIRPERSON**: Ms Hassim.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Chair, we were dealing with the chat between Mr Matlala and Mr Mkhwanazi and it was around those messages where he was requesting assistance for what the witness calls Mr Matlala's right-hand man, Mr  
10 Mafukane who was arrested and that was page 36 of the statement and we were about to play the audio clip that is at the end of paragraph 60 of the statement.

**[AUDIO CLIP PLAYED BACK]**

“Ngamla ...[vernacular]”

**ADV HASSIM SC**: That audio clip is followed by a message from Mr Matlala saying:

“It is okay, Ngamla, he is out already,  
thanks though.”

And then an emoji with thank you hands. Paragraph  
20 61 of the statement:

“In the voice note Mr Mkhwanazi advises Mr Matlala that the person who was arrested was placed at the Police Station in the morning. He advised Matlala that he was released on bail

and that he will only be fined. On 9 April 2025 Mr Mkhwanazi compliments General Sibiya to Matlala.”

And that is in the chat that is reflected below in paragraph 62 where General Mkhwanazi says on 9 April:

10 “Good morning, Ngamla. I am listening to General Sibiya. He is very progressive, dealing very hard with another Indian lady who is crime prevention specialist. He knows his story.”

Back to paragraph 62:

20 “I am aware that the crime fighting imbizo took place around this time in Boksburg. Many senior Police Officers were present, including Lieutenant-General Sibiya. On 14 May 2025 Mr Matlala reminds Mr Mkhwanazi to ‘check that guy’. Other than the clear fact that Mr Matlala asks for assistance and Mr Mkhwanazi obliges, I have no knowledge of who that guy is and what this exchange relates to.”

The WhatsApps are reproduced in the statement.

“14 May 2025, 11:43, Mr Matlala says

“Morning Ngamla, please do not forget to check that guy.” And the response by Julius Mkhwanazi is “Salute.”

10 “I am aware that the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, IPID, conduct an investigation into allegations that Mr Mkhwanazi unlawfully registered private vehicles in the Municipality and fitted vehicles belonging to Mr Matlala with blue lights. The findings and recommendations can be addressed by the relevant investigators at IPID who were responsible for preparing the report. There is also further evidence implicating Mr Mkhwanazi in unlawful activity that I will address during the in camera hearing.”

20 And that brings the statement to a conclusion on the chats with Mr Mkhwanazi. If I can just pause here, Chair, to indicate that the Evidence Leaders will be addressing this issue of the IPID report and the findings with reference to the report and other evidence at a later stage in the proceedings before the Commission. So there will be a separate treatment of this issue of Mr Mkhwanazi and the

EMPD.

Returning to the statement, the next chat is with Mr Rafadi, starting at paragraph 67.

10 “The chat between Mr Matlala and Mr Rafadi begins on 12 December 2024 and ends on 13 May 2025. Lieutenant-General Khumalo confirmed that the number is one that is used by Mr Rafadi. I also confirm this and point out that it is abundantly clear from the chats themselves that the conversation takes place with Mr Rafadi as he shares his media interviews and registration for further studies amongst other things with Mr Matlala.”

The first heading under the section of Rafadi is “A beneficial relationship with Mr Matlala”. Paragraph 68:

20 “The chats is characterised by requests for money or favours by Mr Rafadi. Mr Rafadi makes repeated requests for assistance with petrol and other help. As we will see as we go through the chats, Mr Rafadi returns the favours by contributing to a media narrative that suits Mr Matlala regarding the PKTT.”

The statement then goes through a series of requests for money or favours, beginning on 18 December 2024. Rafadi requests petrol and he does it by using an emoji of a petrol tank, petrol pump. On 22 December 2024, Mr Rafadi requests rent money and that begins 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024, 8h17 in the morning, Mr Rafadi says:

“Wake up.”

Mr Matlala responds:

“Been up Mr Rafadi.”

10 Then Mr Rafadi says:

“Please help me ka rent so I focus.”

Followed by:

“Do you know Brigadier Nama?”

And then Mr Matlala says:

“You mean Ramangwa?”

And then he says:

“I will go check which branch is open today.”

20 “That is the exchange that takes place at 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024. On 3 January 2025, Mr Rafadi appears to be offering mobile numbers for sale to Mr Matlala. The screenshot shows, there are two screenshots, the first, or it begins on 29 December and then it goes on 3 January. So on 29 December is a

picture of a media interview that Mr Rafadi did on Newzroom Africa where he says “I spoke well of our friend.” That is followed by three numbers which he says are for sale. And then on 3 January three more numbers with a 2 or 5K, it looks like 2 or 5,000 following those numbers. Mr Matlala responds to this message with these numbers by saying “I will buy when money comes in. Send me link please.”

Paragraph 72:

“Between 9 and 10 January 25, Mr Rafadi request financial assistance for registering for a PhD. In response Mr Matlala makes a payment to Rafadi’s company, Bizz Tracers for R20,000.00 and that payment is to be found in the Annexure RF4 of the bundle and that is on page 233, Annexure RF4.”

Page 233 of the bundle marked WB3 to WB6. Rafadi’s chat is under the tab WB6.

“Mr Rafadi makes further requests for payment of tuition fees, however, Mr

Matlala indicated that it was not a good time as the company was not stable. That paragraph is followed by an extract from the chats from 9 January 2025. It begins with the message from Mr Rafadi saying “Registration?” And the response is “I sent money early in the morning, Mr Rafadi.” And then a phone call and then a payment notification and that payment notification is the RF4. The chat is followed by what seems to be a screengrab between somebody at a place called Robert Kennedy College and Mr Rafadi regarding registration for a PhD.”

10

This continues on page 43 and in the middle of the page the extract from the WhatsApp chats is dated 10 January 2025. They greet each other and then Mr Rafadi

20 says:

“Payment for your tuition fees received.”

With a check mark, check sort of marker, icon. Mr Matlala responds – sorry, then there is a second message that says:

“Press mine for just registration.”

And an emoji that I cannot make out, followed by Mr Matlala saying:

“Mr Rafadi, sir, I would love to help you but this is not a good time. The company is not going good at all. I need to keep the company stable. It is really bleeding now. On 15 January 2025, Mr Rafadi requests ...”

10

...[intervenes].

**ADV BALOYI SC:** Ms Hassim, can I just ask just to, so that I am not, I do not make mistakes later and sorry, I am going to take you back to paragraph 72 of the statement. There is a reference there to a company, Bizz Tracers where the witness says that is Mr Rafadi’s company and then earlier when you were discussing I think General Senona, and I am looking at page 17, paragraph 35.2, there is again name of these Tracers. Are you able to say it is the same company? Will we be hearing more? If not, will we be hearing more to see if there is a relationship between what looks like companies with the same name?

20

**ADV HASSIM SC:** It appears to be the same company, Commissioner Baloyi.

**ADV BALOYI SC:** Okay, thank you.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Mr Rafadi, if we then just move on from

there, we were dealing with, so there was payment for the tuition fees, a request for further money and then on 15 January Mr Rafadi request petrol and you see it in the screenshot below paragraph 73.

“On 15 January, Mr Rafadi says “Kopa petrol.”

With the picture of a petrol pump again.

10 “On 31 January 25, Mr Rafadi sends a message to Mr Matlala saying “Any spare car I can use? Please.” Mr Matlala responds “I had one but the bank took it. I am expecting a car next month. On 2 March, Mr Rafadi request petrol and that is in the extract from the chats, 2 March at 6:51 in the morning “Please send me petrol.”

Again with the emoji of a petrol pump.

20 “On 7 March 2025, Mr Rafadi request diesel. “Please share diesel when you get.” Followed by a phone call. On 17 March, Mr Rafadi sends account details for his business and you will see in the chat the account details and the account holder is reflected as the Director, Bizz Tracers and that is

followed by phone calls between the two.

On 17 March 2025, still that same day, Mr Rafadi request petrol and that is seen in the chat where he says “Kopa petrol”.”

With the petrol pump.

10 “On 23 March 2025, Mr Rafadi request money and in response Mr Matlala indicates ...”

Pardon me, Chair, I am being, my attention is being dragged away. One second. I am going to be a little bit slower. So we are at 23 March 2025 and Mr Rafadi request money and in response Mr Matlala indicates he sent R3,000.00.

So if we just look at the extract of 23 March 2025, Mr Matlala says:

“I sent 3K.”

This is followed by a message from Mr Rafadi:

20 “I am with someone who is close to our news.”

And then Mr Matlala:

“Got the money?”

And then a GIF of a stamp that says:

“Payment received. Many thanks.”

And another GIF of two hands clasping.

“On 9 April 2025, Mr Rafadi requests money and Mr Matlala responds with a screenshot of a banking App showing a negative balance.”

So that is on 9 March and you will see a screenshot and the negative balance of R19,379.00.

10 “On 12 April 2025, Mr Rafadi sends a reminder to Mr Matlala and Matlala indicates that he will send it soon. So that is 12 April 2025. Mr Rafadi says “Please don’t forget.” Mr Matlala responds “I will, Mr Rafadi, they will send it to me soon.” And Mr Rafadi says “Okay.”

On 15 April 2025, Mr Rafadi sends a request for a vehicle and in the WhatsApp it says “Don’t you have any small car I can use meantime?”

20 On 16 April 2025, Mr Rafadi requests a taxi or an Uber. He sends the address and that is evident from the screenshot. In response, Mr Matlala sends a screenshot of the Uber details with the vehicle and driver’s details.

On 17 April, Mr Rafadi requests as

follows “Any small resource to travel?”  
And then Mr Matlala responds “You want Uber?” Mr Rafadi “I need to use taxi to studio and after Gautrain to Pretoria”. Mr Matlala “Send me address.” This is followed by a call from Mr Rafadi to Mr Matlala.

10 On 4 May 2025, Mr Rafadi requests petrol and that is reflected in the chat 4 May 2025 where it says “Kopa petrol”.

On 5 May 2025 Mr Rafadi sends a reminder for money and in response Mr Matlala indicated that he is down now, but will the following day or Wednesday.”

So the chat is reflected on 5 May 2025 as follows:

“Mr Rafadi “If there is something please share.”

20 Followed by emojis with hands together.

“Mr Matlala says “Down now brother, maybe tomorrow or Wednesday latest.”  
Rafadi “Okay”.

9 May 2025, Mr Rafadi request petrol.  
He says “Kopa petrol to Mpumalanga.”

This is followed by a phone call between the two.

On 17 May 2025, Mr Rafadi request money for car repairs and that is reflected in the chat on 17 May. There is a screenshot of the company, the car service company invoice for the repairs to a vehicle. After Matlala made payment, Mr Rafadi responded ...”

10           Apologies, Chair. Ms Pooe just corrected me and this is quite right, although the statement says on 17 May 2025, the chat itself is 7 May 2025. So the screenshot of the car repairs, I think that was just an error in the typing on the statement. Instead of 17 May it should say 7 May.

          So he sends the screenshot. And then the witness continues in the statement.

          “Mr Rafadi responded with a series of celebratory GIFS.”

          And we see the screenshot of the invoice followed by  
20 a bank account number by Mr Rafadi and then a payment notification which is annexed as RF22 and then what the witness calls celebratory pictures or GIFS follow, a series of them.

          “On 13 May 2025 Mr Rafadi requests petrol and that is reflected in the

screenshot of the WhatsApp chat “Any small petrol please.”

Paragraph 90:

10 “In addition to payment requests and payments shared on WhatsApp, Mr Matlala’s phone analysis had three additional payments made by Mr Matlala to Mr Rafadi on the following occasions, 2 March 2025 and two payments on 17 April 2025. So the first is on 2 March 2025 and the following two on 17 March 2025. The first is for R1,000.00, the second is for R1,000.00 and the third is for R1,500.00.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** I think that that one is April, not March.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** 17, pardon me, Commissioner Khumalo?

20 **ADV KHUMALO SC:** So the second one says 17 March 2025, the third one it looks like it is April.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** That is right.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** 17 April.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** That is right. So the first is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, the second is 17 March 2025 and the third is 17 April 2025. So that ends the section on the favours and

payments to Mr Rafadi. The next heading is “Rafadi Comments Adversely on the PKTT in the Media and Shares Social Media”. Paragraph 91:

10 “The analysis demonstrates that the requests for money and other favours are tied to Mr Rafadi performing a media and propaganda function for Mr Matlala. While the payments are not always linked to a request, in some instances a payment for a favour is made. Thereafter documentation is exchanged and Mr Rafadi proceeds to make public statements against the PKTT. On 3 January 2025, Mr Rafadi shares a screenshot from social media about the disbandment of the PKTT.”

And that you can see is reproduced and this appears to be a post by someone on social media which is headed as follows:

20 “Police Minister #Senzo Mchunu has instructed Police Commissioner Fannie Masemola to halt processes to fill any positions in Crime Intelligence, Political Killings Police Task Team in KZN has also been disestablished.”

That is followed by a response by Mr Matlala in which he attaches as Annexure RF2 the letter to the National Commissioner. RF2, Chair, is the letter of 31 December 2024. So he sends the letter from the Minister to the National Commissioner, which is followed by a GIF by Mr Rafadi, the same as before, people dancing.

10                   “On 4 January 2025, Mr Matlala shares a social media article related to Crime Intelligence. In response, Mr Rafadi exclaims “yoh”, accompanied by an emoji. The social media article is headed “Shocking revelations” and it says, just the opening lines are “This is the information that I received regarding the Political Killings Task Team from one of the former investigators at the Task Team. They were about to arrest the Police Officers involved in the killing of Sindiso Magaqa. I am told that all reports that were withheld by Beki Cele have been retrieved and handed over to Minister Senzo Mchunu.”

20

And it goes on. It is quite a lengthy post followed by the exclamation by Mr Rafadi.

10 “On 6 January 2025, Mr Rafadi forwards a Power FM request for interview and share screenshots with Power FM producer, sharing disbandment – in which the Power FM producer shares the disbandment letter. After the interview Mr Rafadi shares the link with Mr Matlala. In the interview Mr Rafadi commence the Minister’s decision to disband the PKTT, noting that the Task Team was a rogue unit and intimating that Lieutenant-General Khumalo was fighting Major-General Khan for power in Crime Intelligence. He further characterized the Minister’s decision as good advice, sober-minded and that another Task Team can be put in place at a later stage.”

20 So that is the witness’ description, Chair, of the link that Mr Rafadi forwarded, the interview. So I think the link is there, but unless, unless the Chair wishes us to play it, I think the witness’ description of what it essentially contains is sufficient. The point she is trying to make is clear. So that takes us then to page 58.

“On 7 January 2025, Mr Rafadi sends Mr Matlala a link to an interview with Paul O’Sullivan complaining about the appointment of a person within Human Resources in Crime Intelligence. This appointment would ultimately form the basis of the criminal charges brought against Lieutenant-General Khumalo.”

Again, Chair, the link, the witness describes this as  
10 Mr Paul O’Sullivan complaining about the appointment of a person in Crime Intelligence by General Khumalo. Unless the Chair requests, we will not play the entire interview of Mr Paul O’Sullivan.

**CHAIRPERSON**: Please continue.

**ADV HASSIM SC**: Thank you.

“On 13 January 2025, Mr Matlala shares Crime Intelligence story and Mr Rafadi indicates a desire to write about it. In response, Mr Matlala undertakes  
20 to share that article with the Minister.”

So the article, the Crime Intelligence story is reflected at the bottom of paragraph 96. It is a News24 article.

“It is a News24 article and it is, the headline is “Lone Robber Walks Out of

Crime Intelligence Unit with R1,3 million in a bag”. And then there is a response by Mr Rafadi saying “Nanzo, they covering up so Minister will not find out the slush funds corruption staging robberies.”

Followed by a laughing face emoji.

10 “Mr Matlala’s response to that, to Mr Rafadi is “You want to run a story?” So Mr Matlala says “You want to run a story?” Mr Rafadi responds “I am arranging.” And Mr Matlala replies “Okay, I will share with the Minister.”

20 “On 13 January 2025, Mr Rafadi shares another story related to Crime Intelligence and this headline reads as follows: “Five star flop. Crime Intelligence bosses splurge R22,7 million for luxury hotel amid budget cuts.” Below that headline of the article is then what appears again to be a post on social media that Mr Rafadi shares, talking about a Section Commander at the Financial Accounts section of the Secret Service account

who is one of the, alleged to be one of the owners of the hotel and the post goes on to, basically continuing with that allegation and that is 13 January 2025.

10 On 27 March 2025, Mr Rafadi shares a news article related to Crime Intelligence in which it is alleged that General Khumalo tried to frame General Khan and below paragraph 98 you will see the screenshot of the article and that is an article that appears to have been published in the Daily Maverick on 26 March 2025 and the headline is “Ongoing Cocaine Crime Intelligence Scandal Fuel Suspicions of Police involvement in global drug trafficking”.

20 On 31 March 2025, Mr Rafadi sends the General Intelligence Laws Amendment Act, 2024, to Mr Matlala. The amendments relate mainly to Crime Intelligence and that is attached as RF9 to the chats.

On 29 March 2025, Mr Rafadi shares

General Masemole’s letter “withdrawing posts advertised for senior Crime Intelligence positions”.”

That is RF7. I do not have the reference in the bundle at hand, Chair, but it will be under WB6 and it will be Annexure RAF7.

“On 30 March 2025, Mr Rafadi sends a News24 article titled “Senzo Mchunu and top cops at loggerheads. Political Interference or Undoing Beki Cele’s legacy” and the caption  
10 of the, or what Mr Rafadi captions it with is “Nazo”, which the witness translates as “there it is”.

On 2 May 2025, Mr Matlala sends Mr Rafadi a request for comment sent by News24 and this is a screenshot of an e-mail from News24 to Mr Matlala in which the journalist says “Good day, Mr Matlala. I hope this finds you well. I approach you this morning on a very narrow yet important issue. News24  
20 will tomorrow publish a story which names you as a suspect in the attempted murder of Tebogo Thobejane and others during an incident of October 2023. Multiple sources, independent of one another, had

confirmed to us that you are under investigation related to this matter. From this information we will aver that you are being investigated for your alleged role as paymaster. Furthermore, it is understood that yourself and Thobejane were in a relationship between 2021 and 2022. This is a matter that directly affects your probity. In the spirit of balance and telling the other side I hope you would respond to this. Kind regards.”

The next heading in the statement is “Tender Cancellation”. At paragraph 103 the witness says:

“Mr Matlala and Mr Rafadi also shared information and newspaper articles related to the SAPS tender that Mr Matlala was awarded. On 14 March, Mr Matlala shared a news report on the impending cancellation of his contract with SAPS. Mr Rafadi responds with the words “His personal”.”

Perhaps it is personal.

“Followed by a phone call. The article in the WhatsApp chat is headed “Ex

Top Cop Approved R360 million Tender. Now she works for Thembisa tycoon who scored deal.”

That is 14 March 2025.

10 “On 23 March 2025, Mr Matlala shared with Mr Rafadi the news of his SAPS tender cancellation. Mr Rafadi responds “Eish”. This is then followed by a series of calls. So the news is the news article which actually reads in the heading of the article “National Police Commissioner, Fannie Masemola has been ordered to terminate the controversial multi-million rand contract to provide health risk management services and institute a forensic investigation against the supplier”. That is forwarded by Mr Matlala. Mr Rafadi says “Eish”. And  
20 then calls.”

The next heading is “Share information related to SAPS tender payments”. Paragraph 106:

“The pair also shared information in relation to the tender. On 30 December 2024, Mr Matlala shared

pictures of invoice submissions related to SAPS tender. Mr Rafadi responds “approved”.

So Chair, the WhatsApp extract shows a similar screen that we have seen before of those internal finance software program. So it is the same kind of screens that we have seen before, which, and you can see the reflection of a person, so it seems like the person is taking a photograph of it and he, and it is indicating payments and it has  
10 Medicare 24 Tshwane at the top of the screen and this is what Mr Matlala forwards to Mr Rafadi. Mr Rafadi responds “approved”, followed by ...[intervenes].

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** And celebratory emojis.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Well, Commissioner Khumalo, if you can translate those emojis, I would be grateful. But I think that yes, it indicates happiness on the part of Mr Rafadi.  
Paragraph 108:

“Again on 7 March 2025, Mr Matlala shares pictures related to invoices that  
20 were submitted.” In the caption of those pictures Mr Matlala writes that “Some of the chicks hatched”. And below that Mr Matlala says “They paid yesterday. Maybe UR will reflect on Monday.”

That is followed by a GIF that Commissioner Khumalo will describe, but I think it also indicates happiness. Moreover, Mr Matlala and Mr Rafadi's chats suggests that Mr Matlala is close to senior SAPS officials and members.

10                   “On 9 January 2025, Mr Matlala shares a list of alleged delegates linked to Minister. I think that is meant the Minister of Police, for ANC January 8 events that were to take place in Cape Town at the top of the year. Mr Rafadi's response has been deleted.”

**ADV BALOYI SC:** Can I just there at paragraph 110 when you say, maybe let us just make it clear that the witness in the statement says it is linked to Minister. It does not say what Minister.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** No, it does not say ...[intervenes].

**ADV BALOYI SC:** [Indistinct]... [cross-talking].

20                   **ADV HASSIM SC:** It just says – yes, thank you. Thank you, Commissioner Baloyi. So let me read paragraph 110 again.

“On 9 January 2025, Mr Matlala share a list of alleged delegates linked to Minister for ANC January 8 events that were to take place in Cape Town at the

top of the year. Mr Rafadi's response  
has been deleted."

So those in that WhatsApp extract the 8 delegates  
we have seen in previous evidence before the Commission  
it is the same 8 delegates that Mr Mogotsi shared with Mr  
Matlala.

10 "On 11 February 2025, Mr Rafadi  
shared the DPCI Head advert. Mr  
Matlala responds by saying "They gave  
it to Sibiya already"."

So that is 11 February at 9:52 in the morning and it  
is the image of the advert itself for the National Head of the  
Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation indicating it is a  
Lieutenant-General position and other information related to  
the post.

20 "Mr Matlala responds "They gave it to  
General Sibiya already". Mr Rafadi  
replies "I know." And Mr Matlala then  
says "Oh, I thought maybe you wanted  
to occupy the post". And Mr Rafadi  
responds "We will apply in case politics  
changes. I just need to get my final  
certificate from SAQA.

On 2 April 2025, Mr Rafadi requests  
Minister Mchunu's number. In

response, Mr Matlala responds with “Mr Nkabinde”, the Minister’s Chief of Staff’s number.”

So if we have a look at the WhatsApp you will see it says 3 March 2025, Mr Rafadi says “Please send me Senzo”. And then there is a phone call and then there is the forwarding of a contact card and the name on the card is Senzo and then there is a telephone number in the card.

**ADV KHUMALO SC:** Adv Hassim, I think the transcription, 10 or the transcript might give us problems later on, so it is actually 3 April and not March. I am worried that the transcript ...[intervenes].

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Did I say 3 March? Apologies. It is actually so small in my version here that I am not reading it correctly. So it is 3 April 2025 when Mr Rafadi says “Please send me Senzo”. Thank you, Commissioner. Followed by a call on the same day, 3 March, followed by sharing the contact details on 4 April 2025 and that, the contact details is for, the name is simply Senzo and then 20 there is a cell number. Paragraph 113:

“I have confirmed that this number indeed belongs to Mr Nkabinde.”

The statement of the witness then concludes as follows:

“The information provided above covers

only those chats that I am able to make public. There are numerous other exchanges that exist which will be addressed during oral evidence in closed session. These are important in themselves, but also offer additional context or further insight into the matters discussed here.”

And that is the end of the statement. Chair, had I  
10 been leading the witness on this, we would have had a more coherent narrative through the witness’ own mouth of interpretation of all of these WhatsApp chats, but this is where I can leave it for now. If there were to be any further questions from the Commissioners or any interested party, then we will seek directions from the Chair in due course.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you, Ms Hassim. As we said in the ruling earlier today if there are any questions we will indicate in due course how and when those will be raised. I think for the record the following clarification is necessary.  
20 When witness X began testifying they confirmed the correctness of the statement so what Ms Hassim read into the record comes from witness X.

The statement will be made public with necessary redacting to protect the safety of witness X. I do not know, Ms Hassim, whether you will require some time to do the

redacting or whether you are in a position to share immediately.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Chair, I think for the sake of caution we should look through it once more before we make it public, but that should not take too much time, so it should be ready for publication tomorrow.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Yes. We were going to adjourn anyway for a short while just to discuss some housekeeping issues amongst or between ourselves. We will indicate when we  
10 are ready and we will come back, but that will be for a very short time, that is coming back. Can we adjourn?

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Thank you, Chair.

#### **INQUIRY ADJOURNS**

#### **INQUIRY RESUMES**

**CHAIRPERSON:** We already have timelines for the filings that are still going to take place. We stated those in the ruling that we made this morning. I am not going to repeat them. Had the format that was intended been followed, we would have taken much longer than we did with Ms Hassim  
20 reading the statement of witness X into the record, so we finished much, much earlier than we otherwise would have.

We are not able to sit tomorrow, but it does not mean that nothing will be done. Preparations towards argument, if there will be argument, we are still going to decide that, but there will be preparations in terms of the

outstanding filings which include the filing of written submissions. So that is going to take place tomorrow outside of this session obviously.

We will resume at 9h30 on Thursday. Am I leaving out anything? Ja, so we adjourn until 9h30 on Thursday at which time we will either hear argument or we will continue with evidence in whatever format. Let us adjourn.

**ADV HASSIM SC:** Thank you, Chair.

**INQUIRY ADJOURNS TO 16 OCTOBER 2025**

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