
STATEMENT TO THE INQUIRY INTO STATE OF CAPTURE

I,

MCEBISI HUBERT JONAS

state as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. I provide this statement in order to assist the inquiry into State of Capture (*the Commission of Inquiry*) which is chaired by Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.
2. I was appointed as the Deputy Minister of Finance of South Africa on 26 May 2014 and was relieved of my position of Deputy Minister of Finance on 31 March 2017. I was also, during this period, a member of the South African Parliament. I was appointed as Deputy Minister at the same time as Mr Nhlanhla Nene was appointed as the Minister of Finance. On 9 December 2015, it was announced that Mr Nene was removed as Minister of Finance and replaced by Mr Des van Rooyen. It was announced on 13 December 2015 that Mr van Rooyen was, in turn, to be replaced by Mr Pravin Gordhan as Minister of Finance. Mr Gordhan served as Minister of Finance until the evening of 31 March 2017, when he was removed as Minister of Finance and I was removed as Deputy Minister of Finance on the same day.

M.H.J.

EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE MEETING ON 23 OCTOBER 2015

3. On approximately 27/28 August 2015, when I was in Luanda at an African caucus of Finance Ministers, I recall being contacted by Mr Fana Hlongwane, whom I knew relatively well telling me that Mr Duduzane Zuma would like to speak to me to invite me to an awards ceremony.
4. I subsequently met Mr Hlongwane during October 2015 in Johannesburg in the presence of Mr Bongani More and he told me that Mr Duduzane Zuma wanted to meet me. During the course of the conversation he mentioned that the Guptas were important to him. I indicated that I would not want to be associated with the Guptas.
5. I asked Mr Hlongwane to provide me with Mr Duduzane Zuma's number. I had not previously met Mr Duduzane Zuma, nor had any previous interactions with him.
6. At approximately 5.30pm on 17 October 2015, after arriving in Cape Town from Port Elizabeth, I sent Mr Zuma a text message stating "Hi Cde. Tried 2 call u. Mcebisi Jonas". At approximately 5.36pm I had a short telephone with Mr Duduzane Zuma.
7. Mr Duduzane Zuma requested me to attend what I recall to be the South African of the Year Awards hosted by Africa News Network 7 (ANN7), on Saturday 17 October 2015, in Johannesburg. I ultimately indicated that I would not be able to attend, telling him that my schedule would not permit it. Mr Zuma said that he would like to talk to me and asked whether we could meet some time after the awards ceremony.

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8. On Monday 19 October 2015 at approximately 12.38, I sent Mr Duduzane Zuma a text message which read "Can we talk when I [land]" in response to a missed call from Mr Zuma. I was about to fly from Johannesburg to Cape Town.
9. I received two missed calls from Mr Hlongwane that evening at approximately 9.37pm / 9.38pm. At approximately 9.43pm, I sent Mr Duduzane Zuma a further text message which stated "Called". I then received a call from Mr Zuma at 9.43pm about arranging a meeting and I indicated to him that I would be in Johannesburg later in the week and that it may be possible to meet then.
10. On 22 October 2015, I flew from Cape Town to Johannesburg. On landing in Johannesburg, I noticed that I had received a text message from Mr Duduzane Zuma which read "Good morning Sir, I trust that you made it out of the Parliament building unscathed. I tried to call, please return my call when. Kindest regards, Duduzani". I also saw that I had received a missed call from Mr Zuma.
11. I received a call from Mr Duduzane Zuma at approximately 9.58am on 23 October 2015. I told him that I would be attending a meeting in Rosebank that morning and that we could meet briefly before I flew to Port Elizabeth in the late afternoon of 23 October 2015. We agreed to meet at the Hyatt Hotel in Rosebank, before I left for the airport.
12. On 23 October 2015, I attended a Nedlac meeting at Nedlac House in Rosebank, which I left early.
13. I sent Mr Duduzane Zuma a text message at approximately 11am, to change our agreed upon time, which stated "Can we make it 1.30 same place". He

responded by text stating "Agreed Sir". I arrived earlier and at approximately 1pm, I sent him a text message stating "Can you call me". I then received a short call from Mr Zuma at approximately 1.03pm and at 1.13, I sent a further message saying "Here already". He responded at 1.21 stating (by text) "I am on my way up Sir".

14. When Mr Duduzane Zuma arrived at the Hyatt hotel we had a brief discussion. He appeared quite nervous and spoke in very vague terms. He said nothing of substance, except to say that his father, then-President Jacob Zuma, liked me. After a while, I indicated that I was under time pressure. He said that the place was crowded and that he had important matters to discuss, but that he wanted other people to join the discussion and that he wanted to drive to a more private place, which he said was close by. I assumed that we would be going to an office nearby, so I said "let's go". I had received a call from Fana Hlongwane while I was with Mr Duduzane Zuma and I told him that I was with Mr Zuma.
15. We drove in Mr Duduzane Zuma's car, which appeared to be a two-door Mercedes Benz. I did not know the surrounding area very well and only gathered when we arrived at our destination that we had driven to the Gupta's residence in Saxonwold. Mr Duduzane Zuma had not suggested to me when we left the Hyatt hotel that we were going to the Gupta residence or that we were to meet the Guptas. As Mr Duduzane Zuma parked his car, I noticed that Mr Fana Hlongwane had also arrived at the Gupta residence.
16. We went into the house and Mr Duduzane Zuma and Mr Hlongwane led me into a lounge where we sat down and started chatting. Neither Mr Duduzane

Zuma nor Mr Hlongwane suggested that the meeting would involve any members of the Gupta family.

17. We had not spoken for very long, when one of the Gupta brothers walked into the room and sat down. I had not previously met any of the Gupta brothers, but I recognised him as one of the Gupta brothers from media reports. At the time, I did not know his name as he did not introduce himself, but simply started talking to me. I have subsequently looked at press articles which depict the various Gupta brothers. Based on these photographs, I am relatively certain that the Gupta brother at the meeting was Ajay Gupta, but I cannot exclude (based simply on the photographs) the possibility that it might have been Mr Rajesh Gupta.
18. Mr Duduzane Zuma and Mr Fana Hlongwane both remained silent while Mr Gupta spoke and did not participate in the interaction which followed, although they both remained in the room.
19. Mr Gupta opened the conversation by stating that “we know you” and that he had been told that I was being blackmailed by Mr Hlongwane. I replied that this was not true. He responded by stating that was not why he had called for me anyway. He said that “we” have been gathering intelligence on me including those closest to me, such as my friend, Rustum Mohamed, and my chief of staff, Mr Nkosohlanga Mboniswa. He described both Mr Mohamed and Mr Mboniswa as being “poor and useless”. He emphasised that they (which I understood to be the Gupta family) have the capability to gather such information and that they had gathered a lot of information on me, which they could use against me. He said that as far as he was concerned, “this meeting never happened” and that if I were one day to suggest that this meeting had

M.A.J

occurred, they would destroy my political career. I understood him to be creating the impression that they had information on me that they would use to destroy my political career, if I revealed that the meeting had taken place.

20. Furthermore Mr Gupta said that they were well aware of my activities and that I was working with the ANC's Secretary General, Mr Gwede Mantashe, Treasurer General and Dr Zweli Mkhize. He said that these activities were not good for me and that these were "bad guys". He expressed the view that I was part of what he referred to as a "thing" within the ANC and/or Government. I can only assume that he was suggesting that I formed part of a faction or process intended to undermine then President Jacob Zuma. I interjected and refuted his view and stated that I was nothing more or less than a part of the ANC and that my activities in the ANC and my work in Government had nothing to do with him. I asked directly what the purpose of the meeting was.
21. Mr Gupta said that the 'Old Man' seemed to like me and that they "have called me to check [me] out" and to see "whether you can work with us". He also said that the President was going to fire Mr Nene because he could not work with them (I understood this again to be a reference to the Guptas).
22. He said that "you must understand that we are in control of everything", the National Prosecution Authority, the Hawks and the National Intelligence Agency and that "the old man will do anything we tell him to do". He said that "the old man" intended appointing me as the Minister of Finance. I was shocked and angered by this statement and I said that I was not interested in becoming the Minister of Finance.

23. Mr Gupta ignored what I had said. He said emphatically that I must become Minister of Finance because that is what “we” want, by that I would have to work with them. He also said that if I worked with them I would become very rich and that he could immediately offer me R600 million. He pointed at Mr Duduzane Zuma and said that they had made him a billionaire and that he had bought a house in Dubai. He said that they worked closely with a number of people including Lynne Brown and Brian Molefe and, as a result, they were protected. He said that Mr Molefe is very safe and that his career path was very clear. He said nobody would touch me and I would be safe.
24. I said that I was going to leave and stood up to leave. I said that I was not interested in being the Minister of Finance and if he thought I would work with them, he would have to tell me precisely what it is that they do. At that point, he, Mr Zuma and Mr Hlongwane also stood up. I was angry at this stage and he was also emotional.
25. He said something along the lines of “look, do you know who you are dealing with”. He was also agitated and said “you think it is illegal?” He said that everything that they do is legal and that they create jobs and contribute to the economy.
26. He said that at the moment “we” (which I understood to be the Gupta family) earn about R6 billion from the fiscus through various entities including Eskom, Transnet and other Government Departments. He said that they wanted to increase this amount to R8 billion and that they thought that I could be helpful in this regard. Mr Gupta said that they had determined that the National Treasury was a stumbling block for their growth and that they wanted to “*clean up Treasury*”. He said that when I am appointed as Minister of Finance I would

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have to remove Director-General Lungisa Fuzile, Head of Tax and Financial Sector Policy Mr Ismail Momoniat, the Deputy Director General, Mr Andrew Donaldson and the then Chief Procurement Officer, Mr Kenneth Brown. Further, he said that they would provide me with replacements for all of these people and that they would provide me with the necessary support including advisors.

27. I said that I was under time pressure and again encouraged him to set out precisely what they do, suggesting that this would allow me to take an informed decision. For the sake of clarity, my question was not intended for the purpose of seriously considering his offer, but was intended as a provocation to seek to draw him out in the context of the unfolding state capture phenomenon that we were, at that point in time, trying to make sense of and to determine who was involved.
28. I began to walk away and Mr Gupta motioned to both Mr Zuma and Mr Hlongwane to hang back. As I was walking to the door of the house, Mr Gupta directed me to a bar area and said that they were serious about offering me the R600 million and it would be deposited into an account of my choice or that they could open an account for me and I could "stash it in Dubai". He said that to show they were serious "I can give you R600 000 now and asked "do you have a bag or can I give you something to put it in". He seemed to want to show the cash to me. I said to him that I did not want money and I thought he was going to tell me what it is that they do.
29. I said that I was in a rush to catch my plane, but that I was returning from the Eastern Cape on Sunday and he could provide me with a list of what they do on Tuesday of the following week. He told Mr Duduzane Zuma to arrange for

me to come back the following Tuesday and that he should tell me to bring a bag. I asked Mr Zuma to take me back to my car. Mr Gupta said he wished to continue his meeting with Mr Zuma and another car would take me to the airport. At the end of the meeting, Mr Gupta repeated that they had information on me and that if I suggested that the meeting had occurred, they would "kill" me.

30. I was then driven to the airport by what I assumed to be one of the Gupta vehicles.

EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING ON 23 OCTOBER 2015

31. I was very shaken by what had happened at the meeting. Due to the sensitive and threatening nature of what had transpired at this meeting, and because of the uncertainty of the events that were playing themselves out on a national basis, I decided I would initially discuss what had occurred with the people I felt I could trust. Later that day, I contacted Minister Nhlanhla Nene and advised him that I had a something serious to tell him about. He was on his way to KwaZulu-Natal, so we agreed to meet on his return on Sunday, 25 October 2015.
32. Upon landing in Port Elizabeth, I spoke telephonically to Mr Hlongwane and expressed my disgust about what had transpired, particularly in respect of the manner in which he had deliberately misled me. I told him he should never again do what he had done to me or to any other person. He suggested we should have a meeting to discuss what I had raised.
33. On Sunday, 25 October 2015, Mr Nene contacted me and suggested we should meet the following day, Monday 26 October 2015.

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34. I returned to Johannesburg from Port Elizabeth on Sunday 25 October 2015 at approximately 4.37pm. I spoke to Minister Pravin Gordhan and asked if I could see him to seek his advice and guidance. I went to his house in Pretoria and when I arrived, he was sitting with his wife. Given that his wife was present, I decided to provide him with a high level outline of what had happened. I told him that I had been invited to a meeting and that the individuals present at the meeting had told me that I would be made Minister of Finance and that they had offered me money and that I had refused their offer. I was still deeply shocked, angered and dispirited and I told him that I thought I should submit my resignation the following day.
35. Mr Gordhan suggested that I should not resign at that time, but should wait until we had some time to consider the matter further and get into more details and also to decide what would be in the best interests of the country. I told him that I would discuss the matter with Mr Nene, which he said was important. We agreed to keep the matter confidential.
36. I received three missed calls from Mr Hlongwane between 6.49pm and 7.57pm, as well as one missed call from Mr Duduzane Zuma at 8.18pm.
37. On Monday, 26 October 2015 at 6.58am, I sent Mr Duduzane Zuma a text message stating "Hi broer. Can we postpone today's session to Thursday. did not realise how hectic my official schedule is. Jonas". I did not meet him again.
38. At 8.22pm, on 25 October 2015, I received a text message from Mr Duduzane Zuma in which he stated: "Good evening Sir, I tried to call. Please return my call when you can".

39. On the morning of 26 October 2015, I met and briefed Mr Nene. We met on the balcony of my National Treasury office because we were concerned that our offices might be being monitored. I told Mr Nene exactly what had happened at the Saxonwold meeting, including that I had been told in clear terms that he was to be removed from office. He suggested that he should resign, because he was going to be fired in any event. Having considered Mr Gordhan's advice, and in the face of the open hostility towards National Treasury in the Cabinet, especially from the then President, and particularly in relation to the nuclear procurement programme, I told him that I thought we should remain in our positions and "fight on", if only to hold the line for the finance department. He agreed with my proposal in this regard.

October 2015 – December 2015

40. At this point in time, I did not see any point in reporting the matter to either the police or the Hawks, as I believed that these institutions were seriously compromised and I saw no reasonable prospect of this matter being properly and fairly investigated. This was both at a general level (by then the former President Zuma had secured a loyal intelligence and security apparatus by weeding out most of the experienced and technical capability in the various institutions) and at a personal level (given the threatening statements which had been made by Mr Gupta during the course of the meeting). I anticipated that any reporting of the matter would simply result in reprisals against me. My concerns in this regard, were subsequently amply underscored by my later interactions with Major General Mnonopi in relation to complaints which had been laid by Mr David Maynier of the Democratic Alliance and Mr Dennis Bloem of COPE.

41. My experience was also, to some extent, taken over by national events, which subsumed Mr Nene and me, over the period leading to the firing of Mr Nene as Minister of Finance on 9 December 2015. This time was, in my experience, one of the most intense periods in South Africa's democratic history as we in the National Treasury were trying to hold the line, without Presidential or Cabinet support, against an economy teetering on the edge of a recession, while various crises at some of the State-Owned entities unfolded. In retrospect a number of these events appear to have been linked to the capture of various state institutions by the Gupta family. Simultaneously, the pressure on us from former President Zuma and other members of the Cabinet to approve the nuclear deal was immense, and was ultimately the trigger for Mr Nene's dismissal on 9 December 2015, after he again refused to back the deal at a Cabinet meeting that day.
42. I was on a flight to Port Elizabeth when Mr Nene was removed from office. When I landed I had messages from Mr Nene and also received a separate message indicating that the President had attempted to contact me. Mr Nene sent me a text message in which he said that the "axe had fallen" and suggested that we should meet when I returned from the Eastern Cape.
43. When I spoke to then President Zuma, he told me that he had removed Mr Nene as Minister of Finance and that he had appointed Mr Des van Rooyen. I asked him how he thought Mr van Rooyen would be capable of performing the job and cope with the financial markets. President Zuma said that I was there to help him.

44. After the brief tenure of Mr Des van Rooyen as Minister of Finance, Mr Gordhan was appointed as the Minister of Finance. I remained as Deputy Minister of Finance.
45. Shortly after Mr Gordhan was appointed as Minister of Finance, we met and discussed the various pressure points that the Treasury was facing, particularly how we would deal with the aftermath of the removal of Mr Nene and the appointment of Mr van Rooyen. We also discussed in detail in this context the events which had taken place at the Gupta residence on 23 October 2015.

January 2016 – March 2016

46. Subsequently, in January 2016 I had a meeting with Dr Zweli Mkhize in Johannesburg, then the ANC Treasurer General, about another matter. During the course of this meeting, he said he had heard a rumour about the Gupta's offering me an inducement to take up the position of the Finance Minister and he asked me whether this was true. I told him what had occurred and I also mentioned the role played by Mr Fana Hlongwane and Mr Duduzane Zuma in facilitating the meeting. Dr Mkhize indicated that he was shocked and advised that he noted my concerns regarding the matter including in respect of the role of Mr Duduzane Zuma.
47. Subsequently the Financial Times (of London) published an article on Wednesday 8 March 2016, which reported "the family also denied a claim, made to the FT, that weeks before Mr van Rooyen's appointment they had asked Mcebisi Jonas, deputy finance minister, if he was interested in the Treasury's top post at a meeting at the Gupta home. 'There have been an

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extraordinary number of allegations around the Gupta family in recent weeks, several of which have involved the finance ministry,' a family spokesman says. 'To be absolutely clear: there was no meeting at all'. The article did not immediately receive a great deal of attention in South Africa, although News24 and some other online news sites reported the story on Thursday 10 March 2016. On Friday 11 March 2016 I travelled to a SADC meeting in Gaborone, Botswana which lasted until Monday 14 March 2016.

48. While I was in Gaborone, on Sunday 13 March 2016, the Sunday Times carried a story, which stated that "President Jacob Zuma's son, Duduzane was present when members of the Gupta family offered Deputy Minister Mcebisi Jonas then-finance minister Nhlanhla Nene's job, the Sunday Times can reveal".
49. I arrived back in South Africa on Monday 14 March 2016 and noticed that I had calls from Mr Zizi Kodwa the then spokesperson of the ANC. I went to Luthuli House to discuss the matter with him. He agreed that I should make a statement explaining what had happened.
50. I released a media statement on Wednesday 16 March 2016. Before doing so, I discussed what I was going to do with the then Secretary General of the ANC, Mr Gwede Mantashe, who supported my stance in this regard. For ease of reference, I have quoted the content of the statement below:

"MEDIA STATEMENT BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE MR. MCEBISI JONAS (MP)

I have decided to respond to and clarify certain questions that have been in the public domain recently. I do so in accordance with my conscience, my

M.H.J

political values and the best traditions of my organisation, the ANC, of which I have been a member since my early teens.

I regard our Constitution as being sacrosanct and it embraces the values that South Africans struggled for, and what we live by. I was appointed Deputy Minister in terms of the Constitution by the President of the Republic. Any practice that conflicts with the prescripts of the constitution must be challenged in the interest of our democracy and the accountability we have to our people. The ANC that we have been and continue to be proud members of, has offered us the opportunity to serve our country, an honour that I do not take for granted. My historical commitment to the liberation of our people has not waned.

My daily decisions and actions are informed by the understanding that true political freedom will be achieved through deliberate and active management of a transformed yet inclusive growing economy. The current economic climate presents many risks for our country, which requires responsible leadership to avoid a fullblown crisis. We have to unite on the key issues relating to managing the macroeconomic risks, while urgently unlocking new sources of growth and job creation. South Africa requires “all hands on deck”.

The extent to which we are able to navigate the current macro-economic challenges, restore investor confidence and rapidly stimulate growth, will depend on heightened levels of political leadership.

The narrative that has grown around the issue of “state capture” should be of concern to all responsible and caring South Africans, particularly those of

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us who have accepted the task to lead our people. We cannot afford to ignore the obvious impact these sentiments may have on our country and the resultant potential of undermining our moral authority. Neither can we afford to allow the attempts to capture the state to divert us from dealing with the challenges that our country faces. We have made to our people through our public pronouncements and private conduct.

Therefore let me state the facts on the matter of whether I was approached by nongovernmental individuals in respect of the position of Minister of Finance. Members of the Gupta family offered me the position of Minister of Finance to replace then- Minister Nene. I rejected this out of hand. The basis of my rejection of their offer is that it makes a mockery of our hard earned democracy, the trust of our people and no one apart from the President of the Republic appoints ministers. Let me also place it on record that there was no discussion between the Deputy Secretary General of the ANC Ms Jessie Duarte and myself on this matter.

I have hesitated to speak out publicly on this matter until now, but I feel it is no longer possible to remain quiet. Of primary concern to me is that this issue has a real danger of diverting attention away from the real and urgent challenges we face as a country.

I am committed to good governance, abiding by the constitution of our country and being accountable to our people who repeatedly express their confidence and trust in us, election after election. It is this constant state of awareness and consciousness drummed into most of us throughout our service in the national democratic revolution led by the ANC that has provided us with the moral capital and tools to apply sound judgement to

M.H.J

navigate challenges that emerge in the natural course of societal leadership. It is only through these values and moral covenants that I serve my organisation, my fellow country men and women, my beloved South Africa.

Finally, I remain confident that the challenges that we face as a nation will be overcome if we collectively use our efforts for the benefit of all. I am resolute in playing my part in preserving the integrity of National Treasury as an institution in my capacity as Deputy Minister. I'm also committed to making my contribution towards building a prosperous South Africa led by the glorious movement of our people, the African National Congress."

***Issued on behalf of the Ministry of Finance
Date: 16 March 2016"***

INTERACTIONS WITH THE HAWKS

51. A further article appeared in the Sunday Times on 3 April 2016, which reported that I had alleged that the Gupta family had offered me the position of Minister of Finance in the place of Minister Nene in 2015.
52. I was subsequently contacted by General Berning Ntlemeza of the Directorate of the Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks) pursuant to a complaint which had been made by Mr Bloem and Mr Maynier. He asked me to provide a statement and said that "we need a statement from you to help us finalise this case". He later told me that they were working on a statement for me and that Major General Mnonopi would contact me in this regard.
53. I was subsequently approached by Major-General Mnonopi, also of the Hawks. She initially phoned me on 20 June 2016 and informed me that she was

M.H.S

investigating the complaints which had been laid by Mr Bloem and Mr Manier. She said that the complaints related to allegations of corruption and that the complaint by Mr Manier referred to the Sunday Times article of 3 April 2016 and the complaint of Mr Bloem referred to my media statement.

54. She said she was coming to see me at the Treasury with a prepared statement. I called Mr Max Boqwana, my attorney to ask him to be present at this meeting. Major General Mnonopi told us that this was a “*DA matter*” and that I did not want to help the DA and that they wanted to kill the case. She said that the statement had been settled by an Advocate who was a prosecutor (I assumed within the National Prosecution Authority), who believed that it would kill the case. She said to us that “we, need your statement as a formality as there is no case here, it is necessary in order for us to close the matter. Your statement must state that you are not a witness for anyone and that you do not want to make a statement as such”.
55. A copy of the draft statement which she brought with her is attached marked ANNEXURE ‘A’ and the draft statement contained the following paragraphs “During our engagement she informed me that I am cited as a witness in both cases and for that reason, a detailed statement is required from me. I responded to her that I am not prepared to submit any statement as I never opened any case against anyone and I don’t intend opening any, further, I’m not a witness to any person. We (the investigating officer and myself) later made an agreement to meet for such an affidavit. Today I met with the investigating officer as arranged and I still maintain my position that I don’t have any statement I this regard. That is all I wish to say”.

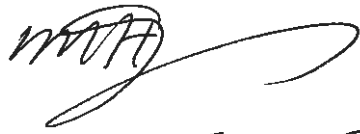
56. I refused to sign the prepared statement which she had brought with her. I was, at that point not surprised by the approach adopted by the Hawks, given the extent to which I believed the institution to be compromised. I did not accede to the request that I should not provide an affidavit. On 19 July 2016, I provided the Hawks with a short affidavit confirming the content of the media statement which I had made on 16 March 2016.
57. The Directorate of the Priority Crime Investigation (The Hawks), through Major General Mnonopi then subsequently requested me to respond to certain specific questions on 5 September 2016 (followed up with an e-mail on 20 September 2016). I accordingly provided a supplementary affidavit which was signed on 2 May 2017 and contained the following statements:
- 57.1. The purpose of the offer was not communicated to me;
- 57.2. Mr Ajay Gupta was present at the meeting which was held on 23 October 2015;
- 57.3. The other persons present at the meeting were Mr Duduzane Zuma and Mr Fana Hlongwane;
- 57.4. As stated in the Statement submitted to the Media, the only person who spoke was Mr Ajay Gupta;
- 57.5. There are no records of the meeting of which I am aware;
- 57.6. I was invited to the meeting at the Hyatt by Mr Hlongwane and Mr Duduzane Zuma and from there Mr Duduzane Zuma suggested a more quiet place which transpired to be Gupta's residence, though I did not become aware of this until after arriving at the premises;

M.K.J

- 57.7. I was contacted telephonically to arrange the meeting; and
- 57.8. the meeting was scheduled at the Hyatt Hotel and moved to the Gupta residence as stated above.

CONCLUSION

58. I have reflected in this short statement what appears to me to be the relevant facts. However, I am prepared to provide further detail should it be required and also reserve the right to amplify and supplement this statement.

Signed: 
M. H. Tomas
& August 2018