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Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi:

Speaker

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5 **BRIEFING MEDIA AND PUBLIC**

Lt. General Mkhwanazi: I'm here this morning in order to speak to you about the policing issues that are happening in KZN, as well as in the Republic of South Africa. So, I'm presenting this briefing to the citizens of this province, and by extension, the inhabitants of the Republic of South Africa, specifically about the work of the Political Killings Task Team. It's been spoken about a lot, I'm sure you know that. Let me give a bit of a background about this Political Killings Task Team. In **2018**, the president of the Republic, his excellency president Ramaphosa, established the inter-ministerial committee, which we refer to as "IMC," which consists of the minister of police, the minister of state security, the minister of defence, the minister of justice and correctional services, and correctional development. These ministers were given a task by the president, to ensure that they deal with matters of a security nature, that affect political leadership in this province. You will recall that the minister had visited the family of the late Musawenkosi [vernacular] [0:01:26.2] Mchunu in Pietermaritzburg in **May 2018**. It was then, where this IMC was established, by the president. So, it is a committee of ministers, not a police directed operation, but a committee, that involves different departments. The IMC at the time met and listened to the investigation report that was presented, the so-called "political task team" that was established before them. And the observation amongst others was that the task team was working in silos. It was compromised and that it did not have any investigation, as well as a prosecutorial plan or strategy. As a result, there was little, or no progress in investigation and prosecution of these cases. A decision was therefore taken by the IMC to establish a nationally integrated multidisciplinary task team, which consists of the South African Police Service, the national prosecuting authority, NPA, supported by both state security, as well as correctional services, which commenced its work in **July of 2018** to implement the now tried and tested analysis led and prosecution driven

5 investigation strategy. As a result of the excellent performance, the Political Killings Task Team has been assigned in another presidential intervention project. I can name a few. The killing of the traditional leaders in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, as well as the murders that happened in the University of Fort Hare in the Eastern Cape. Since the establishment of this Political Killings Task Team in **July 2018**, the team has been

10 investigating a total of 612 case dockets. These case dockets include murders, attempted murders, intimidation, conspiracy to commit murders, and other cases. A total of 436 suspects were arrested and charged. 156 Firearms were recovered, of which 55 of them were linked directly with ballistically through our forensic testing to the political-related cases. In addition, 35 suspects, who are members of the South African Police Service

15 were arrested. A notable one, is the one who is now in prison, who has been working with the parliamentarian who was involved in the murder – about the murder of, one, Sindiso Magaqa. We are going to talk about that later. A total of 128 accused were found guilty on 106 cases. 29 Accused were sentenced to life in prison. 40 Accused were sentenced between ten to 35 years. 25 Accused were sentenced between one to nine years. 23

20 Accused were sentenced between three to 12 months. And there's quite a lot that are awaiting trial prisoners that are going to be finalised in the next coming few weeks. So, a total of sentences, years, a total number of years that has been given, if I add all of them amounts to about 1 801 years of imprisonment. This is the work done by the team since **2018** to date, that have led into the successful prosecution, because of this integration

25 working between the SAPS and the prosecution. On the **26th of March 2025**, this year, a total of 121 case dockets that were under investigation were taken away from the task team, as directed by a deputy national commissioner, crime detection, a Lieutenant General Sibiya, who was acting on the instruction of the minister of police to disband the team. This was done without the authority of the national commissioner, nor, I, as a

5 provincial commissioner was never informed. These case dockets have since **March** been sitting at the head office, ever since without any investigation work done on them. Five of these dockets had already instructions to arrest perpetrators, but nothing has been done because a Lieutenant General Sibiya, being instructed by the minister, [indiscernible] [0:06:25.3] executing instruction of the minister, withdrew all these dockets and they are

10 sitting in archive in his office in Pretoria. God knows why. Therefore, only a total of 112 dockets, which are still in court, of which 54 of them are politically related and others will include parallel ad hoc, as well as the dockets that are involving the incident at Fort Hare University, and five of them are traditional leadership are still with the team at this present moment. In the year 2024, a request was received from Gauteng Organised Crime

15 Investigating Unit to assist with the investigation to dismantle the organised crime syndicate, that was operating in Gauteng – that was controlled in Gauteng, but operating in the rest of the country and in neighbouring countries. I, as the provincial commissioner, took a decision to deploy ten members from this Political Killings Task Team to go and support this organised crime unit in Gauteng. I can tell South Africans that this decision

20 was a cause for the “disbandment letter” of this team, because they overstepped the mandate of only focussing in KZN, they went to support Gauteng Organised Crime Unit with the dismantling of a criminal syndicate. And I can confirm before the South Africans today that the investigation which these members were involved with in Gauteng has unmasked the syndicate. And this syndicate involves, amongst others, politicians who are

25 currently serving in parliament. The law enforcement officers include the members of the South African Police Service, the metro police and correctional services. They include prosecutors in Gauteng province, the judiciary, and all these are controlled by the drug cartel, as well as businesspeople in that province of Gauteng. This act, of course, undermines the criminal justice system in this country. Mr. Brown Mogotsi sends a

5 WhatsApp message to myself, Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi, regarding the allegation on defeating the ends of justice matters which were widely publicised, which involves an incident that happened at the correctional service at Empangeni in KwaZulu-Natal. Mr. Brown sends this message in **September** last year, long before the news came out in public about the incident that happened at Empangeni. He sends this message, in this

10 message that he sends to the provincial commissioner, he attaches a police letter and he attaches a copy of the occurrence book, a register that is used at the police station, that is supposed to only be accessed by police officers. But Mr. Brown, who is not a police officer attaches those in his message and he sends it to the provincial commissioner. His words say, there is a plot to charge you. Mr. Brown Mogotsi also sends a screenshot of a

15 presentation, that was made on the **30th of September 2024**, a presentation that was titled "2024-2025 Division Crime Intelligence Policies." He sends this to myself, Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi, as the provincial commissioner of KwaZulu-Natal. Surely, this must have been classified information where crime intelligence are presenting their policies. But, this man has access to that and he's not a policeman. When asked to share the copy of

20 this presentation through that WhatsApp communication, he responded by saying, General Khan will brief you next week. There's only one General Khan in the South African Police Service, so is one Lieutenant General Sibiya in the South African Police Service. I've never heard of any other lieutenant generals, in any other way in the security cluster in the country with the very surname, so I assume these are the colleagues that I know very well.

25 He further wrote on the very same WhatsApp message. He said that, I quote; "*The minister is briefed. He has just arrived in Lusikisiki.*" End quote. You will recall, colleagues, that we had an incident in Lusikisiki, a mass murder that happened there, and the minister of police had gone visiting the families in that crime scene. So, after this communication, the provincial commissioner called the chief of staff, Mr. Nkabinde, the chief of staff of the

5 minister of police and asked the chief of staff, who is this Brown Mogotsi? This Brown Mogotsi seems to be travelling with the minister to Lusikisiki. Who is he, because, I have never heard of him? The response from the chief of staff was that, that Mr. Brown Mogotsi is an associate of the minister, but is not employed in the department. That's when I got a confirmation about Mr. Brown Mogotsi and I asked the chief of staff to send the phone
10 number of this Brown Mogotsi, of which he did. It is that number that made me to confirm that, indeed, the person who is sending me WhatsApp messages, is the same person that is called "Brown Mogotsi" and is from North West. On the **5th of March 2025**, the South African Police appeared before the portfolio committee in parliament. A presentation was made to this portfolio committee by the provincial commissioner of KwaZulu-Natal, which
15 included the allegations of an associate of the minister of police, Mr. Brown Mogotsi. The minister denied on record, go and Google a visual presentation to the portfolio committee on the **5th of March** this year, towards the end of that briefing where the minister of police responded and said he "does not know" this Mr. Brown Mogotsi, he said that in parliament. However, the minister confirmed that he knows this Mr. Brown Mogotsi during a telephone
20 conversation that he had which was posted on X, under the handler at [inaudible] [0:13:54.9]. This was on the **30th of March**, where he confirmed that this was his comrade from North West. The conversation between the minister and that lady is available. You can go on X and find it on the **30th**, if it has been removed from that account, as we finish this briefing, I will share that with you. The evidence has been found in the cell phone of
25 Mr. Vusimuzi, also known as "Cat Matlala" which shows the communication between Mr. Brown Mogotsi and the minister of police, Mr. Senzo Mchunu. As I said, this was the beginning of the closure of the political task team. I will try to outline some sequence of events. I had said the team left for Gauteng to go and assist organised crime in Gauteng. There was a shooting incident that had occurred in **April 2024**, where Mr. Swart, a Q-Tech

5 employee, was fatally shot while entering the company premises. Q-Tech has been a long-standing service provider to Transnet. Shortly after the incident, three suspects, including a warrant officer, a South African Police Service warrant officer, a detective Tau Pule, were arrested in Johannesburg. During the arrest, weapons that were used in this murder, which was an AK-47 and a pistol, along with cell phones were confiscated. I must applaud

10 the team in Gauteng who had effected this arrest before the arrival of the team in KZN. It is the challenges that this investigating team of Gauteng encountered that led into the invitation to the KwaZulu-Natal police to go and assist. The KwaZulu-Natal Political Killings Task Team arrival, they took these weapons and they went and tested them. So, they conducted a ballistic test, in order to check whether these firearms were linked with that

15 murder and many other murders, perhaps, that will have occurred in the country. Maybe let me pause on that one and come back into what had happened, prior to us receiving the results from the task team, ballistic test results. On the **6th of December 2024**, the task team visited the premises of the two of the high-profile syndicate, of which one, Mr. Katiso Molefe, was arrested for the murder of Mr. Swart of Q-Tech. During that arrest, unusual

20 activities were observed whilst the team were busy with the operation. These activities included a dispatching of members of the South African Police Service, under the command of a senior manager at the head office to go and interrupt the operation that was unfolding. Fortunately, when they arrived there, the members realised that it is indeed a police operation, so they allowed the members to carry out their operation without

25 disturbance. On the **30th of December 2024**, the ballistic expert issued a ballistic report which linked these firearms, not only with the murder of Mr. Swart, but these firearms were linked with a number of high-profile cases. And these cases include very high profile South African artists that were murdered in Gauteng, which occurred, dating back as far as **2021**. I'm not going to mention them, but we have them on record. On the **31st of**

5 **December 2024**, the minister of police, Mr. Senzo Mchunu, issues a letter to disband the Political Killings Task Team and to suspend the filling of vacancies within crime intelligence. In **January, February, and April** this year, the deputy national commissioner of crime detection, Lieutenant General Sibiya, issued written instructions, withdrawing all these cases from the task team to his office. On the **14th of May** this year, **2025**, the task

10 team arrested Vusimuzi, who is also known as “Cat Matlala,” for attempted murder times three. I must highlight that this Mr. Vusimuzi, “Cat Matlala,” is an individual who was awarded a police contract of over R360 Million in **2024**. An analysis was conducted on electronic communication of this arrested person. This analysis reveals communication between the arrested Vusimuzi “Cat” Matlala, Mr. Brown Mogotsi, an associate of the

15 minister of police, as well as the minister of police, Senzo Mchunu. On the **1st of January**, the letter is issued on the **31st**, on the **1st of January 2025**, Mr. Brown Mogotsi sends a WhatsApp to Vusimuzi “Cat” Matlala and it reads as follows. I quote; *“I have arranged a meeting for Sibiya and the minister, they must have a solution.”* And it follows another message. *“The task team that came to your house and harassed you have been*

20 *dissolved. They got the letter on Monday. As we speak, they are bringing all dockets to Sibiya.”* This letter is issued on the **31st of December 2024**. This communication is on the very next day, the **1st of January 2025**, where it says the dockets are being called and are being sent to Sibiya. Yes, we know the dockets only were sent to Sibiya in **March** this year. Further analysis of the chats indicates that Vusimuzi “Cat” Matlala, is financially

25 supporting the minister of police and Mr. Brown Mogotsi's political endeavours. This is supported by the evidence of conversation and the proof of payments of guests for **January 8** travelling cost and the gala dinner in Cape Town, which was done in **2025**. The proof of payment, we have it. As I said, we're going to share it with you where Mr. Matlala is sending this proof of payment to Mr. Brown Mogotsi. On the **2nd of January 2025**, at

5 about 10h05 in the morning, Vusimuzi “Cat” Matlala, receives a copy of the letter of the disbandment of the Political Killings Task Team from Mr. Brown Mogotsi, who is an associate with the minister of police. I pause to remind you, that this is the very same Brown Mogotsi that the minister of police had denied in parliament and later confirmed to be his comrade, but not involved with police matters, but he's sending this communication.

10 That's what we have discovered through the investigation. On the **14th of January 2025**, Mr. Brown communicates with Mr. Vusimuzi “Cat” Matlala, as follows, I quote; *“Sure, don't forget to work on your invoices.”* On the **15th of January**, Mr. Vusimuzi “Cat” Matlala responds with a screenshot of an invoice that he has submitted to the South African Police Service, which I guess was due for payment on his contract. On the **26th of January 2025**,

15 Mr. Brown Mogotsi sent a message to the minister of police, Senzo Mchunu, which reads as follows, I quote; *“The guy of the funding in bracket 20, is also in Joburg from Tuesday. He is the one I said has a 3 (three) Billion contract with SAPS.”* Close quote. Open quote, again another message. *“I am also meeting with the DNC and the COS today.”* Now the abbreviations, the DNC in the South African Police Service is referred to as the “deputy

20 national commissioner.” And the COS would be in this regard the “chief of staff.” He says; *“I'm also meeting with the DNC and chief of staff today in Durban, for finalisation of Khumalo and General Mkhwanazi's matter.”* Close quote. Another message reads; *“DNC is waiting for the chief of staff here. This is very significant.”* Close quote. This is extracted from the communication of the arrested person. So, we ask ourselves a question. Is there

25 a [indiscernible] [0:23:51.8] of conspiracy targeting senior officers involving the minister of police in this country? On the **31st of December**, we have seen Mr. Brown Mogotsi sending the following message to the minister of police, which reads; *“Minister, I'm going to get the case number and the judgement for you. Now we've got something proven by the court. It is a matter now which either Sibiya or the minister can charge Khumalo and*

5 *apply Rule 9 of the Disciplinary Regulations of the South African Police Service. It took the Constitutional Court to release a man who was sentenced to life imprisonment through a forced Section 204 confession. Imagine, Comrade Senzo, after 30 years of democracy, having this kind of policy. The good thing now, is that these are not allegations, but a court judgement.*" This is extracted from a conversation that Mr. Brown Mogotsi is sending to the

10 minister of police. On the **13th of May** this year, the contract of Vusimuzi "Cat" Matlala, was cancelled by the national commissioner of the South African Police Service. On the **14th of May** this year, Vusimuzi "Cat" Matlala sent the message to Brown Mogotsi, which reads, I quote; *"Morning, just to let you know that my contract was cancelled yesterday. And I see you've been ignoring me and promising me things that never happened. Luckily, I took*

15 *screenshots of every conversation, just in case something like this might happen. I'm taking all this to media and some to court on Friday, when I do the interdict.*" Close quote.

On the **30th of May 2025**, the investigative directorate against corruption, which is referred to as "IDAC," requests the Exhibits from the cell phone of Vusimuzi "Cat" Matlala from the Political Killings Task Team and they download the content of the cell phone. IDAC is a

20 unit that was established to deal with corruptions in the country. We don't know what is it that we're investigating for them to come and ask for these cell phone downloads on the **25th of May**. On the **30th of May**, I beg your pardon. On the **25th of June** this year, the project coordinator of the Political Killings Task Team is arrested by IDAC. A dramatic arrest, a dramatic arrest. On the **26th of June 2025**, the accused, Katiso, KT Molefe, who

25 was arrested by the very same task team, was granted bail, I guess that one went under the radar. The work of the organised crime in Gauteng, supported by the Political Killings Task Team, has indeed been compromised. The disbandment of the Political Killings Task Team was influenced by the sterling work that they performed in Gauteng to uncover the criminal syndicate, which involved some members of the criminal justice system operating

5 in Gauteng province. And not because of what I presented earlier, which was the work they did in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Their demise was as a result of them assisting Gauteng to uncover the criminal syndicate. Despite all these challenges, we acknowledge and appreciate the resilience of the members of the Political Killings Task Team. The Political Killings Task Team remains operational, albeit its attempt to disrupt its work to

10 protect and serve the inhabitants of the Republic as enshrined in the constitution under Section 205(3) of the constitution of the Republic. The Political Killings Task Team remains operational. Therefore, we have embarked on a process of registering a criminal investigation in order to deal with this infiltration and control of the criminal justice system by the organised crime. We, in KZN, know that a member of crime intelligence, or

15 members of crime intelligence released classified documents and handed them over to a member of parliament, that includes vetting documents, as well as covert properties. We all know in the country that the joint standing committee of intelligence is the one that must supervise the operations of a secret fund account, not only for the South African Police Service, but all the intelligence agencies in the country. That the members of crime

20 intelligence gave these documents to the member of parliament and the member of parliament registered a criminal case in Gauteng, where he was alleging that some of the officials within crime intelligence were issued fraudulent vetting clearance certificates. After opening the case, he sends a communication to the minister of police, he asks the minister of police to take these dockets and assign them to someone else. The minister of police,

25 chief of staff, Mr Nkabinde, wrote a letter to the head of the NPA newly established unit, which is referred to as "IDAC," investigating directorate against corruption, to investigate these cases. These allegations of a manipulation of a vetting process, not a state capture, not corruption, but IDAC receives this communication from the minister of police to take these dockets, and IDAC does exactly that. They go and take these dockets and they

5 investigate them. I wonder whether is this what the unit IDAC was established for. The minister of police invited and facilitated the peace talk between myself, the provincial commissioner of KwaZulu-Natal, and the deputy national commissioner, Lieutenant General Sibiya, in his office, in his house, state house, official residence in Pretoria. The purpose of the invitation was to try and create peace between myself and the deputy
10 national commissioner. It was unprecedented, I've never seen in my life. The national commissioner was present, but he just kept quiet, because it was not his meeting. The minister of police felt that he must make me and General Sibiya to find peace. Surely, there can never be peace between a criminal and a police officer. As we speak, the South African Police Service KwaZulu-Natal, still does not have a leader within crime intelligence,
15 because of the letter where the minister suspended the filling of vacancies at crime intelligence, which is dated the **31st of December**. So to date, we don't have a command of crime intelligence in this province. We are trying to figure out on our own how to infiltrate syndicates, because the minister decided these posts must not be filled. Crime intelligence at the national level has no commander as we speak, and we must thank the magistrate
20 who made the ruling that went beyond what the charge sheet against the accused is about, which the members were charged on HR related matters that dealt with filling of vacancies. The magistrate directed that these members must never enter any premises of crime intelligence in the country, so which means all the work of crime intelligence had to come to a halt. Interesting for us, is that another magistrate who then heard the matter of
25 the second accused on that case who had remained in custody last week, did not issue the same condition. He understood that the judiciary cannot get involved in determining whether people must go back to work or not. It is an employer that must make the decision. But, I might just indicate to South Africans that Mr. Padayachee, who appeared in court on the day when these police officers were arrested, whom the magistrate referred

5 to as an investigating officer, is a former member of crime intelligence himself. He retired from the police and he went to join this new unit, IDAC. He is now referred to as a lead investigator, with no qualification, no investigative experience at all. But, this is a person whom the magistrate directs, that if anything is wanted at crime intelligence, it must go via him. So, he gives him a carte blanche to access anything at crime intelligence on behalf of

10 the members that are employed to work there. The vetting section within crime intelligence has more powers than any other units within that space, because they can scrutinise everything about the applicant who is applying for security clearance. And they can manipulate that security clearance process for their own benefit. So, I stand here understanding as leading this province of KwaZulu-Natal that fighting organised crime

15 remains a priority as directed by government. The national commissioner remains my commander and the commander of all of us as we wear this uniform. And we must protect this badge and the police commissioner. I call on all men and women in law enforcement, the South African Police Service and metro police to stand up and protect our people. Yes, sometimes law can stand on the way to achieve justice. We must choose justice. Thank

20 you so much for listening to me.

OPEN FLOOR

Question Taker: Thank you colleagues. That was the brief from the provincial commissioner. We are going to share this with you to look at the numbers and stuff later on after this briefing. Now, it's time for you to ask questions related to this. Let

25 me see by the show of hands. And with this one we are doing only one round and we are done. I've got three hands already. Jason, you go first.

Jason: Thank you so much, Jason [inaudible] [0:35:28.7] from eNCA. General, thank you for the comprehensive update. I did hear you say that there will be a criminal investigation, but I want to ask you more directly. Would the minister and

5 Sibiya be investigated, or are they being investigated as we speak? Because from what you've outlined, clearly a number of crimes that have been committed there and these are the names that have been central to what you've outlined. The second part of this is, what does this mean for your working relationship, for the work that you do here with your team? Considering that there is this, it's more than an elephant in the room, but
10 considering that there is this, how will this impact the work that you do? And I think the last question is, with everything that you've said here now, what do you foresee happening to you? Do you see any implications for yourself based on everything you reported?

Lt. General Mkhwanazi: Thank you. I'll take one, I will answer to each one of you. I'm a police officer, who understood the task at hand when I joined the service, it was my
15 resolve to make sure that I deal with criminals head-on. Hence, I had chosen a career within the combating side of policing. That's what led me to work in the units that I worked for over time. Yes, I've been a provincial commissioner and I'm still a provincial commissioner, coordinating different type of policing operations in this province and I've been involved with a lot of operations in the country in the past. But, I understand that at
20 this present moment the war that we are facing, it's so serious that it deals with high-level senior officers within the criminal justice system. Therefore, it is important for us to go into a combat mode. It is important for me to make sure that I take on the enemy directly. So, when you see me and you see this management and you see, understand that we have hard-working men and women, not only in KZN, but across the board in the country, who
25 doesn't like crime, who doesn't like these criminals. I fortunately am a citizen in this country. My family are spread across different provinces. So, it is my duty and the fellow police officers to protect them. So, I'm not going to surrender their freedom. I'm not going to surrender their safety to anyone. So, I will die for this badge, I will die for them. So, I will fight this fight until the end. Whatever the end is, we will fight. We're not going to stop.

5 We've got family members, brothers and sisters, we've got children that are exposed to drugs. This drug cartel, which includes a group in Gauteng, that's operating in Gauteng as their headquarters, are importing these drugs from abroad, South America, the main, through this port of Durban, amongst others to Gauteng and they process them in Gauteng and from there they distribute this drug all over in the country, as well as other countries.

10 We've been involved with a lot of shooting incidents in KZN, and especially at Inanda. As we're engaging with these youngsters, we're doing analysis and we're realising, yes, they might be ill-disciplined kids, but their behaviour is encouraged by the substance that they take. It gives them courage to kill. It gives them courage to rape. It gives them courage to murder. And if we take away this substance, they will become good citizens. They will

15 become good kids. So, therefore we need to get rid of drugs. Now we understand when we fight with the drug cartels, that they've controlled police generals and they've controlled prosecution and judiciary, it's not going to be a small game. So, unfortunately some of us have to sacrifice. We've reached a stage where we're sacrificing for the good of the South Africans, for the children of South Africa to be free from drugs. So, I do hope that the

20 authorities that have been briefed about this will take necessary action in dealing with it. As a Police officer, I cannot turn a blind eye when I see a crime being committed. That's why I mentioned that. We are already working with the prosecution, working on case dockets, for those that took a decision to stop the investigation. So, we have to investigate to establish, because this new administration came into office last year. This IMC that was

25 established by the president, has been in existence before the new government. Ever since the new government took over, to date, there's never been a briefing given by myself, nor my management. I believe nothing done by the provincial, the project leader, which is General Khumalo, who is now arrested. I cannot talk much about my boss, but us as people who are running on the ground, we have never given a presentation to the

5 minister of police about the work, the successes that I presented of this Political Killing Task Team in this province. So, for a decision to disband it, we are a hundred sure, after evidence collected that is informed, by the work that they were doing in Gauteng, which the work they did in Gauteng, was affecting the people that are closer to the people that are closer, to our executive authority. So, our investigation is going to be that wide. We're

10 going to uncover anyone who had a role to play. There are people that refer to themselves as "whistleblowers," the strategy that is being used, is to make sure that they turn the image of a person in the public space. They talk bad about you in the public space. For a member of parliament to come and talk about the procurement of facilities, of crime intelligence, which is a covert thing, which is something that should not be in the public

15 space, is not being questioned by anyone. The person who's accused, understands that he cannot speak in public about it, because it's a covert thing. If he speaks public about it, he's going to be facing a criminal offence himself. Now, they're exploiting that gap, that we know this person can't speak, so let's speak and make him look bad. He can only speak behind closed doors in parliament, but he can't speak to the public. Push the man until he

20 reaches the end, and he is going to expose the issues of national security of this country, simply because there are people with evil intentions who are pushing him to get to that stage, using the state apparatus to execute the mandate. So, we have to investigate in order to be able to remove the cancer. That's where we're going to go. I hope I answered all your questions.

25 **Unidentified:** What's the implications for you from [inaudible] [0:43:07.8]?

Lt. General Mkhwanazi: Ja, what I said when I started, that I've decided to take this fight head on. So, the least that can ever happen to me, is someone to come and attack me, or somebody to issue an instruction that General Mkhwanazi must be fired from the police, or suspended, or arrested for that matter. What I know, what I like about KwaZulu-

5 Natal, especially and South Africa at large, that we've got very dedicated people out there, from the law enforcement, as well as private sector, especially the security companies, that we are running the streets with them, on a daily basis, who understand that there's a rot in this organisation, who understand there's problems that we're talking about. And they're not going to sit back and allow this thing to continue. So, I'm inviting all of them. I'm
 10 inviting the citizens to stand up and protect these men and women who are standing for the truth in this organisation. They must protect them. Whether, I'm there or not there, the fight must go on. We must protect this country against crime. It's all that we can do. So, whatever happens to me happens. I'll take it whatever happens, happens. If it's prison, it will be prison. It's already on communication planned by Mogotsi, the DNC, and the chief
 15 of staff, that they must deal with my matters. Whatever matters comes, they will come. But, what we must not surrender, is this country and our children to be controlled by drug syndicates. And that's what is currently happening. Yes, sir, who's next?

Question Taker: Next one. [Indiscernible] [0:44:41.0], the last one, Clive?

Clive: Yes, sir. Thanks sir. My name is Clive [inaudible]
 20 [0:44:47.1]. My first question really, is around clarity. You talk about evidence collected. Obviously, when you collect evidence, whatever evidence you get, it must be preceded by an investigation. I'm just trying to understand the nature of the investigation conducted. Who authorised it?

Lt. General Mkhwanazi: Which one now?

25 **Clive:** No, the evidence that you collected that you have been citing.

Unidentified: I think he means the [inaudible] [0:45:16.3] the arrest when those [inaudible] [0:45:19.0] taken for ballistics. Is that what you're referring to?

5 **Clive:** No, no, my understanding is that there is pieces of evidence, that confirms kind of a conspiracy theory against you and you are citing pieces of evidence. I'm just saying, did you do it yourself, the collecting of this evidence?

Lt. General Mkhwanazi: Oh, okay.

Clive: Yes.

10 **Lt. General Mkhwanazi:** Well, I've said if maybe you didn't capture this thing. So, when I was talking, you were typing. That's why you didn't get some of the things.

Clive: Ja, I know, I [inaudible] [0:45:49.9].

Lt. General Mkhwanazi: The team of Gauteng Organised Crime Unit, have been investigating a murder case of Mr. Swart, and they came across a problem. I'm not going
15 to elaborate what the problems are, which made them realise that they need support from elsewhere outside Gauteng, because there are some senior officers that are in close communication with their target. Hence, they came to me and I dispatched the team to go and assist them. In that investigation, the team were doing in Gauteng under the leadership of General Khumalo, who's now arrested, uncovered a lot of things. It led to the
20 arrest of one of the drug lords and the search of the other one, and eventually the arrest of the second one. That – the arrest of the second one, and when they took his phone and they downloaded his phone, they found all these communications. So, it is the team that was working, not me. So, that's where everything was unfolding. We were asking ourselves a question, as to what made the minister to decide to disband the team? We did
25 not know until we found it from the suspect's phone. You know, this thing came from **December**, as a strategy to neutralise the investigation against these drug lords, because the team was perceived to be handling the drug lord case. What they did not realise, is that that case docket was not part of the political task team. That case docket was in Gauteng, and the hardworking men in Gauteng were investigating that, because they were

5 threatened, they were supported by this team. But, the docket remained there. Now, there's a number of people that should have been arrested in Gauteng, that are not arrested, because the prosecution does not want to sign off the warrant of arrest for those people. We do hope that pretty soon, we might find some changes with good, dedicated prosecutors, who might see arrests happening. And this incident that involves artists in this
10 country, that were killed, is going to come to the fore. And when it comes to the fore, you'll remember the day when I stood here before you and I spoke about it. So, my investigation in this province, is not about my plot *per se*, but it's about the defeating the end of justice. How do you decide to stop an investigation from **March** to date? Who gives you the authority? There's directives here from prosecution that an investigating officer must do A
15 to Z. These investigating officers were told to go home and leave these investigations. For whose benefit? So, we ask a question. And the instruction says, as per the directive of the executive authority. Now we ask ourselves, and we're going to scrutinise as we investigate, what is a constitutional mandate of the minister of police? And what is a constitutional mandate of the South African Police Service? What is the Police Act saying
20 about the powers of the police commissioner, versus what the minister of police is supposed to do? There's a policy and there's operations. I'd said on the record before, I will not close the task team, not unless the national commissioner gives me the instruction. That's why today this team is working. So, we're not going to stop. That's why as we continue as police officers we investigate, we're going to find the rot. Now, the cancer has
25 gone so deep, that we have to now focus ourselves in here and stop chasing children at Inanda. We must get rid of the drug that make those kids to behave like that.

Clive:

No, wanted – there are two questions – the other one is around the protocols. We know in government there are strict protocols [inaudible]
[0:49:21.1] the police, that stipulates that if you have a grievance, like the one that you're

5 telling now, these are the processes that you should follow. So, I just wanted to find out whether, did you escalate the matter maybe up to the president? And also before you came out [inaudible] [0:49:39.6] public now, and also I just want to check, there are 11 district commissioners here. Are they in support of the stance that you have adopted? Thanks.

10 **Lt. General Mkhwanazi:** Ja, well I think the latter part, here are the district commissioners, maybe they can answer themselves if you direct the questions to them. But, they are here because they've been briefed about this, what we are doing. You correctly said we have got chain of command. And I've said before, the national commissioner, General Masemola, is my commander and nobody else. At the provincial
15 office – at the province of KwaZulu-Natal, I account and report to the legislature and via the executive authority in the province, of which the premier is the one that supports us. So, I must communicate via the executive authority in the province and I must communicate via the national commissioner and that's where it ends. So, this information has been given to the national commissioner, he knows about it. He's the one who then
20 can dispose it further, to wherever it needs to go. I had requested the portfolio committee chairperson to make sure that he invites me to attend the portfolio committee, because I was not initially supposed to be part of it in **March 2025**. Hence, I spoke the things that I spoke before parliament in the presence of the minister of police. That's where the minister denied the knowledge of this gentleman, of which today we have evidence through that
25 team, hardworking team in Gauteng had picked up. That's why I want to emphasise that this whole cracking of or investigation of the syndicate was not started by the KZN Police. It was started by the Gauteng members. But, because they came under difficulty, they called for support. So, we went there to support our colleagues. I salute those members, because they don't sleep at home. Some of them have not been at home for a year

5 because they wanted. These are Gauteng members, is not here. Yes, we talk about crime being coordinated in Gauteng province, but there are members in Gauteng, both SAPS, prosecution and judiciary, who are against what is happening. But, because these syndicates are able to control those in power, it makes the investigation not to continue in Gauteng. That is our problem. Unfortunately, the jurisdiction, the operations of the justice
10 system, we cannot take a case that an incident happened in Gauteng and investigate it in KZN. It has to be done there. Decision prosecutor – prosecute must happen there. The judiciary, they preside over it, it must happen in the same place. So, if those people responsible are controlled by the syndicate, then the case is going to fall flat.

Question Taker: Newsroom Africa, [inaudible] [0:52:21.9]?

15 **Newsroom Africa:** [Inaudible] [0:52:23.7], I just wanted clarification on whether – because you're saying that the national commander is who you report to. Did he give you the go-ahead to continue with the political task team, because you're telling us that the work continued? Did you get the go-ahead from him to continue with it, even though there was a decision that was made from above? And then I just wanted clarity on when
20 you mentioned the arrest of Katiso Molefe for the murder of Swart. You mentioned that the weapons that were found there, the ballistics when they came back, they were linking to several crimes, including, you said, artists, music artists. Did you mean Johannesburg and Durban, or were you saying it as a general statement?

Lt. General Mkhwanazi: Maybe the second half of the question, the firearms were
25 linked with the murders of artists in the main, those artists were killed in Gauteng, which dates back to **2021**. I'm not saying which type of artists, but they are South African prominent artists that were murdered, their case has not been resolved to date, at least in KZN, we made an arrest that is known in public by the murder of AKA and his friend. But in Gauteng, we haven't heard much. We now know, there is firearms linked with murders of

5 some of those artists. So, but the decision must now be taken, that these people must be prosecuted, because they now know who are the suspects that are involved. The first part of your question, I'm not sure if I remember very well now, everything that you've asked on it, with regard to –

Newsroom Africa: The political task team.

10 **Lt. General Mkhwanazi:** Oh, the political task team. The minister issues a letter on the 31st, the national commissioner is on leave. The national commissioner comes back from leave, he is concerned about this directive of the minister, because it's got criminal [indiscernible] [0:54:15.4], that you don't stop a criminal investigation. Even the national commissioner himself can't tell a constable to stop an investigation. So, who is then the
15 minister who can say that? And the deputy national commissioner who then issue these directives. The national commissioner signs a letter, a call-up instruction, to continue deploying this task team to work. He authorised it in black and white and he even put a budget on it. So, the team has been working ever since under the authority of the national commissioner. The national commissioner has never disbanded the team. That's why I
20 said he never issued instruction of withdrawing of case dockets. Hence, the investigation, because we now have to establish who then does this? So, surely if the national commissioner doesn't tow the line, he must go himself, most likely. I wonder why we heard some things on the news last weekend, because then if he goes, they take over and everything can be controlled.

25 **Question Taker:** Last one. Okay, SABC, both of you.

SABC: Yes, just for clarity's sake. We have the case that's looking into the drug syndicate in Gauteng. You also talk about looking into the defeating the end of justice. Now when we talk about that, where was the case registered? Which unit is carrying that docket?

5 **Lt. General Mkhwanazi:** I said we are busy discussing this with the prosecution. We are putting this evidence together. We have not registered a case yet, because we still needed to get some clarity from people who are part of this investigation, whether they issued an instruction, where does instruction come from, and so forth. We understand this to be a task of the inter-ministerial committee, then we'll expect the ministers of these
10 departments to also assist us to tell us whether, as the committee, did they issue this instruction that authorised the disbandment of the team, and so forth. So, once we compile all those things and then the prosecutors are happy with it, then we'll register the docket. Then we can be able to take it to court and be able to hear what could have been the reasons behind.

15 **Question Taker:** Nosipho, last one.

Nosipho: [Inaudible] [0:56:52.7] from SABC. Just a couple of questions, [inaudible] [0:56:57.9]. You mentioned that Brown's [inaudible] [0:57:01.0] from the North West, does he enjoy the support of the minister of police? And you keep on mentioning the minister of police in all your investigations. Are you insinuating that the
20 minister is involved or is linked in criminal elements that you have been mentioning? And then –

Lt. General Mkhwanazi: Maybe ask one-by-one, so I don't keep on forgetting.

Question Taker: Just one.

Lt. General Mkhwanazi: No, no, let me answer this one, then she can ask another
25 one. The minister of police, through the communication that we received, first he writes a letter, he disbands the team. In the same letter, he stops the filling of vacancies. We are seven months down the line without a commander of crime intelligence. We don't know the reason. We've asked the national commissioner to explain to us, why this is? He says the minister gave the instruction. So, we don't know what is her intention is. And we, in

5 parliament even say, that we don't know what informs the minister to say "disband" the team, because the team's work speaks for itself, it's there. I mean on a frequent basis; the previous ministers were briefing the nation about what the team is doing. This new current administration has not done that. Now, suddenly we see the letter that says the team is disbanded. We don't know the reason. Fortunately, for the investigation happening in

10 Gauteng, under the leadership of the project manager, which is General Khumalo, and evidence is retrieved from one of the criminal syndicates, which makes it clear that there's a communication between the minister and these people. The very same minister goes on record, on a tele-conversation he's having with someone else where he says, I know this is my comrade. Whereas he has said in parliament, he does not know the person. We see

15 on the records, communication of this Brown Mogotsi, together with an accused, the communication that involves police things, amongst them, is to deal with Mkhwanazi and Khumalo. Amongst them, is to expeditiously applying disciplinary regulations of the South African Police to deal with Mkhwanazi. That's why there's a call in public from a person that I will not necessarily mention his name, that the national commissioner must bypass

20 the disciplinary regulations of the service, must simply suspend these people because they are [inaudible] [0:59:25.4]. Why is that call? It's a call that is putting more pressure, to make sure that the country, hence, the handing over to the criminal syndicate. That's what it's about. So, the people make calls, and they disregard that which is a rule in the organisation. You commit a misconduct, produce a report as an arresting authority to the

25 executive authority, or to the leader of that institution and say, this person was arrested for A to Z. And what comes after next, is an internal investigation to establish whether, do we keep this person in that environment, or not? If we keep this person will he not interfere with the investigation or not? But, those powers are taken away from the national commissioner, who is supposed to do that via the court, by a magistrate who says, you

5 must not go. So, automatically it means the court have now taken the role of the national commissioner, dealing with a disciplinary matter by suspending people. The national commissioner is confused now, what does this court mean? That's why today the national commissioner has not appointed anyone. Which means the whole month, the whole week has gone by, this kind of suffering, there's no head of crime intelligence, because the court
10 decided, not the court, maybe let me rephrase. The one presiding officer decided that these people cannot go and work there. So, that almost suspends the entire disciplinary regulations of the police, which is a concern. Not to say, people did not commit misconduct, they will have been arrested if they committed misconduct, but allow the internal process to happen. But, they are not doing that they are – are the media taking
15 another question?

Unidentified: Obviously with all this work that you have been doing, arresting criminals and trying to dismantle this drug cartel or criminal syndicates, do you believe that all these investigations against you, they were purposely targeting you, so that you can be removed or eliminated from these investigations? And do you believe that your
20 safety is in jeopardy after this revelation?

Lt. General Mkhwanazi: Ja well, the safety of South Africans is in jeopardy. At least Mkhwanazi still has a firearm. He still has men and women that he works with. He can still somehow protect himself. There are men and women out there that are vulnerable, they've got no one to protect them. So, we can't be worried about our own safety, we must worry
25 about the safety of the citizens. So, ours is to go out there and lay our life to protect them. That is my only concern right now, not about my safety. You know, everyone shall die, their time will come. If it comes, it comes. But if an enemy comes to you, attack the enemy. Don't allow the enemy to take advantage. You can't just lie with your arms and your hands like that, you have to fight. So, that's what we are doing now in KZN and we shall fight.

5 And this fight is very big. So, it needs people who are committed, people who are not
worried. No, they're going to chase [inaudible] [1:02:29.3], get out of that place and fight.
They're going to suspend, they're going to dismiss, they are going to get you out of the
police. When you're out of the police, join men and women in the private sector that are
dedicated in dealing with this criminality and fight from outside. That's why we're calling on
10 them to also join us to fight. That is not going to stop. So, I'm not worried about my safety,
in as far as these investigations are concerned. I said you must ask one question at a time.
What is the other one that [inaudible] [1:02:59.8]? Thank you so much because you forgot
as well.

15

END OF AUDIO

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Belinda Inez
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