

Matlala held SAPS top brass ‘in palm of his hand’

Explosive testimony uncovers corruption within police ranks

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EXPLOSIVE Testimony at the Madlanga Commission has revealed that police top brass, including suspended Police Minister Senzo Mchunu, allegedly received large amounts of money from businessman Vusimuzi ‘Cat’ Matlala.

Witness C, a member of the Gauteng counterintelligence operations unit, who was deployed from the Political Killings Task Team (PKTT), told the commission yesterday that Matlala claimed he gave suspended police minister Senzo Mchunu R500 000 to fund his presidential campaign in the ANC.

The witness said Matlala revealed that he had been funding police top brass on May 14, 2025, the day he was arrested for the attempted murder of his ex-girlfriend, Teboho Thobejane. He was denied bail by the Alexandra Magistrate’s Court, which found he posed a danger to society and may interfere with state witnesses.

According to Witness C, when Matlala was arrested, he was taken to Boksburg police station with the intention of detaining him; however, before that could happen, he requested a talk with the detectives. That’s when he spilled the beans about his relationship with the SAPS top brass.

According to Witness C, Matlala claimed he transferred money to a company registered by Brown Mogotsi, who would then pass it on to Mchunu.

Mogotsi has been identified at the commission as an ‘information peddler’ who was in contact with several high-ranking police officials.

“Matlala said he contributed to Mchunu’s campaign. He sponsored the minister’s delegates to the Jan 8 statement of the ANC, in Cape Town, and he paid an amount close to R500,000. The money covered flights, accommodation, and entertainment,” the witness said.

The Commission was told that Matlala also showed detectives the name of the company and accounts where he transferred the money. He also told the detectives that these transactions were reflected on his bank statement.

Witness C said Matlala told the detectives that he had funded Mchunu’s presidential ambitions but he did not believe that Mchunu would win and only did so because he was afraid of discouraging him.

According to Witness C, Matlala also claimed he had paid R500 000 to suspended Deputy National Commissioner for Crime Detection, Lieutenant-General Shadrack Sibiya.

When Sibiya’s son was getting married, Matlala claimed he paid R300,000 to Sibiya to fund the wedding celebration. Matlala also told the detectives that he attended the wedding in a Rolls-Royce.

“In January 2025, Matlala indicated that Sibiya informed him that he was buying a plot in Midrand and the plot

would be registered under the name of his (Sibiya’s) wife. The plot would be converted into a B&B. Matlala indicated he gave Sibiya R2 million towards the purchase of the B&B. The money was delivered in cash to Sibiya by Matlala,” the witness said.

According to Witness C, Matlala complained that Sibiya loved ‘money too much’.

Matlala had a contract for the health facilities at police training centres. Witness C added that after every payment for the SAPS tender, a portion of the payment would be given to Sibiya by Matlala, sometimes R1 million per month.

Matlala told the detectives that Sibiya and KwaZulu-Natal Hawks head Major General Lesetja Senona helped him (Matlala) to secure the multimillion-rand SAPS tender, which was later cancelled by Mchunu. The witness also said that, on occasion, money would be moved through Sergeant FE Nkosi, from the national office of the Organised Crime Unit.

The Commission heard that Matlala would transfer money to Nkosi, and Nkosi would drop it off with Sibiya.

Matlala told police that SAPS counter-intelligence head, Major General Feroz Khan, allegedly demanded R2.5 million, but Matlala only gave him R500 000.

The witness also said that Organised Crime Unit national head, Major General Richard Shibiri, allegedly received R80 000 from Matlala.

HISTORIC

Kapp’s heroics fuel Proteas’ final dream

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IN THE immediate aftermath of the Proteas Women’s epic World Cup semi-final victory over England in Guwahati, star all-rounder Marizanne Kapp video-called her wife, Dane van Niekerk.

Van Niekerk, of course, is the former Proteas Women captain who was at the helm when the team agonisingly lost their first-ever World Cup semi-final to England in Bristol in 2017. The images of Van Niekerk in tears and Kapp with her head in her hands were long the tortured symbols of the Proteas Women’s team.

On Wednesday, Van Niekerk was crying again during the call with Kapp — but this time, they were tears of joy, as the veteran played a starring role in helping the Proteas overcome their semi-final hurdle and reach a first-ever ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup final.

“She literally cried for the last hour,” Kapp said of Van Niekerk. “She is just so jealous of the team, but even more happy for us.

“It’s amazing. We’re just so blessed to finally get over the semi-final.

“Nothing is more important than family. I even said it in the morning. I’ve always been so focused on wanting to win a World Cup. And this morning, our team doctor came to my room, she prayed for me, and then she told me a story. It was almost then when it just hit me that cricket isn’t everything. Maybe I’m on this path for another reason, I don’t know.

“Having these girls around, having team management around, and then family — ultimately, especially if it doesn’t go your way, they’re always there, no matter the outcome. That’s really special. Just knowing



PROTEAS Women’s all-rounder Marizanne Kapp and the team are preparing for the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup final after an impressive victory against England in the semi-final.

BACKPAGEPIX

See Sport

I can go back to my family.”

Kapp delivered arguably her finest performance in her 16-year Proteas career, scoring a vital 42 runs and claiming 5/20 with the ball to lead her team to a 125-run win.

She credited the team for her performance.

“Well, to be honest, I probably haven’t had the best World Cup personally, so coming into this game, I knew I was due a good performance.

“(Laura) Wolvaardt was brilliant as well. She’s so consistent. But I think it’s just the

experience of having been here for so many years — ultimately, that is what wins you semi-finals and World Cups,” Kapp said. “I feel like in past semi-finals, I probably haven’t been at my best and haven’t contributed the way I should have.

“So, I’m really happy that I could make a difference in the result. But again, it’s just the love of the sport. That’s why we play, because we just love cricket so much, and I absolutely love playing for South Africa.”

The Proteas will face hosts India in the final on Sunday in Navi Mumbai.

DISREPAIR

Concerns over the future of athletics in KwaZulu-Natal due to deteriorating stadiums

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THE KWAZULU-NATAL ATHLETICS (KZNA) body is sounding the alarm over the future of athletics in the province, revealing that several stadiums that should be at the forefront of athletics development are not licensed to do so because of their poor condition.

Among the stadiums is the Kings Park Athletics track, Chatsworth Stadium in Durban, the Msunduzi stadium, Ulundi stadium, and Richards Bay stadium. The organisation expressed concern that athletics is being treated as “the poor cousin” of other sporting codes and is being neglected.

This issue surfaced amid concerns regarding the maintenance of the stadiums in the province. A video emerged

recently showing “poor maintenance” of the Msunduzi Municipality’s Harry Gwala football stadium.

A source in athletics bemoaned the state of the Kings Park athletics stadium, stating, “If you haven’t visited the Kings Park athletics stadium (Durban) recently, please do so for all our sakes. You will find the same level of deterioration (as Harry Gwala) and apathy towards maintenance.

“Most toilets and the change rooms are kept closed so they don’t have to be cleaned. The athletics track is, of course, no longer approved by Athletics South Africa (ASA), so no national championships are allocated to Kings Park,” said the source.

Steve Mkasi, KZNA president, said the situation was much worse, mentioning many stadiums across the province used for athletics.

He noted that with Kings Park, they have been battling for the last six years to have the problems addressed.

“For the last six years, we have been trying to engage with the City, and due to their diaries, it has been proving difficult to accommodate us.

“There’s absolutely no door we haven’t knocked at. Unfortunately, this matter needs officials and not politicians. The relevant department has had a few changes over the last couple of years. Every time we start talking to a person, they leave the City, and the process has to start de novo.

“A licence to qualify the stadium to be used for athletics is valid for five years, because line painting fades, the rules change, and the obvious wear and tear occurs.

“It also doesn’t help that Chatsworth

Track is also in no condition to be used for athletics; this means that everything from everyday training takes place on the same track, which speeds up the wear and tear of the facility. He added that the Chatsworth Track can’t be used after dark because there are no lights.

“The rust on the lights got so bad that we suspended the use of the stadium until the municipality removed them. They were dangling so dangerously that it became unsafe to use the venue. We are hopeful that we will sit down with the officials of the City soon because we intend to host an international competition in February 2026 at the facility,” he said.

The president added that the impact on athletics has been very negative. “We generate revenue that sustains our development agenda by hosting national competitions.

The last two years, as a whole, have not had a licensed facility. Kings Park is one of five tracks in the province, and none of them meet the standard for World Athletics.” He said the problem of poor maintenance of the stadium extends beyond eThekweni. “Msunduzi is a Class 1 stadium and should be the pride of the province; however, as things stand, it is also unlicensed.

“Ulundi has a dilapidated track; Chatsworth is the same as Richards Bay. Athletics is the forgotten cousin of other codes like football, rugby, and cricket, and it is sad. We are losing talent to other provinces, in part because we don’t have suitable infrastructure.

“We will, however, continue to knock at doors. In fact, we are even prepared to be given a long-term lease so that we can raise public funding to upgrade the facility,

only if someone from these municipalities could lend us their ears,” he said.

eThekweni Municipality and Msunduzi Municipality had not responded to requests for comment by deadline while an official at uMhlathuze Municipality said they would need to seek clarity from KZNA before they could comment.

eThekweni councillors expressed concerns of the impact this was having on the sport. Patrick Pillay of the Democratic Liberal Congress in eThekweni said, “It is very worrying that key sporting facilities are left to deteriorate at the expense of sports and youth development in athletics. Systematic maintenance is paramount in ensuring that facilities do not become a white elephant. The costs of maintenance increase when left unattended for many years,” said Pillay.



BUSAMED DIABETES PANEL DISCUSSION



Dr Nthabiseng Legoete - Chief Strategy Officer



Dr Joanna Skelton - Endocrinologist



Dr Anupa Ramnarain - Vascular Surgeon



Dr Verushka Reddy - Specialist Nephrologist



Dr Sedeshan Govender - Endocrinologist



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SWEET SUCCESS: BUSAMED KZN DIABETES CAMPAIGN

Busamed Hospital Group is on a mission to empower communities to live healthy and more fulfilling lives.

It was with this mission in mind that the Busamed diabetes project was launched. The project kicked off at Gateway and entailed screening all patients who are admitted to the hospital for elective procedures for diabetes. More than 50% of patients who are diabetic do not know that they have diabetes and our quest is to meet the target to have 90% of people knowing their blood sugar levels.

The Chief Strategy Officer Dr. Nthabiseng Legoete advised that patients who were found to have abnormal blood sugar levels indicative of diabetes were referred to our endocrinologist who initiated them on treatment. It is important to note that these were people who would not have known that they have diabetes had we not been intentional about screening. In the absence of rigorous screening, people will go on to develop complications related to uncontrolled diabetes.

There were valuable insights that was shared by some of the Busamed Gateway Specialists that were present at the KZN Diabetes Campaign. It was well attended by many Medical Professionals

as it was a sweet success as there was a wealth of knowledge gained.

Dr Joanna Skelton the Endocrinologist at the hospital advised that in this day and age there have been huge advances in the treatment options available to diabetics, as well as devices for glucose monitoring. Targeting diabetes early is critical to reduce the risk of long-term complications.

Dr Anupa Ramnarain the Vascular Surgeon advised that the true impact and morbidity related to diabetes are sometimes underestimated. Stroke and limb loss are potentially devastating complications. Vascular surgery is technology driven, which allows us to help more patients and also offer newer treatments. In this way, we are able to prevent amputations and improve quality of life for diabetic patients. Bypass surgery and stents are a standard of care. Novel techniques include Arthrorectomy devices, intra vascular ultrasound, laser balloons, Angiojet thrombectomy devices and EKOS. These allow us to intervene in a minimally invasive way with increased options to save limbs and save lives.

Dr Verushka Reddy the Specialist Nephrologist and Dr Sedeshan Govender the Endocrinologist advised that Diabetes, if not properly managed,

can severely impact the kidneys, leading to a condition known as diabetic nephropathy. It is one of the most common causes of chronic kidney disease and kidney failure. The damage occurs over many years as high blood sugar and high blood pressure harm the kidneys’ filtering structures.

Diabetic kidney disease can progress slowly, with symptoms often not appearing until significant damage has occurred.

A simple urine test can detect small amounts of protein that have leaked through the kidneys’ damaged filters.

While kidney damage from diabetes cannot be reversed, its progression can be slowed or prevented with proper management. Consistently keeping blood sugar levels within a target range is the most effective way to prevent or delay kidney damage. Controlling high blood pressure is crucial. A balanced diet, regular exercise, weight management, limiting salt intake, and quitting smoking are all vital for protecting kidney health.

The Marketing manager Joelene Ranjit of Busamed Gateway advised that it is a joint effort that will lead us to a Healthier Future.