

Cocaine,
alcohol
allegedly found
in Goolam
Vawda's
hotel room

THE MERCURY

RACISM STOPS WITH ME



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Djokovic
needs a
miracle against
sublime Sinner

REBUTTAL

Senzo Mchunu vows to contest allegations at the Commission

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SUSPENDED Police Minister Senzo Mchunu has vowed to challenge the damaging allegations that have been levelled against him by witnesses at the Madlanga Commission.

He informed The Mercury that he intends to return to the commission and is awaiting to be summoned.

Mchunu needs to clear the air regarding the damaging testimony made by a police officer who testified in hiding on Monday.

The resumption of the commission has been a challenging situation for the minister, as the first two witnesses provided testimonies implying that he had interfered with the work of the police. These testimonies have intensified calls for President Cyril Ramaphosa to take decisive action against the minister.

A letter surfaced on Tuesday stating that Mchunu refutes some of the claims made against him, including allegations that he tried to coerce a witness into making a false statement.

He confirmed to The Mercury, "Yes, the letter released as a media statement is authentic; it is to rebut the claims that have been made. I will be going back to the commission; I do not know when, as you know that in the commission, you are called; you do not just come."

Mchunu declined to speak any further on the matter, stating that he does not want to do interviews at this stage. "I do not want to do interviews while I am on leave; I can only confirm the letter that is the media statement," he added.

In a statement released yesterday, the minister asserted that some of the damaging testimonies presented at the commission this week are false.

In his letter, Mchunu said he is "rebutting" all the claims made against him by Witness E, describing them as untruthful. "I have taken note of the evidence presented by the second witness at the Madlanga Commission on Monday.

"I deny the allegations he makes about me, including the interactions regarding his statement. I am aware that I am due to appear again at the commission, and I will seek to respond. My lawyers are already dealing with the matter," he stated.

ActionSA councillor Alan Beesley said it was time for the president to act against the minister.

"The recent further allegations made against Minister of Police Mchunu are extremely disturbing. In light of these allegations, the President should immediately act and fire the Minister. As Minister of Police, there should be no concerns regarding one's integrity, and as such, Minister Mchunu is unfit for the role. One must ask the question: why is the President not acting against Mchunu? In the interim, taxpayers continue to pay for two Ministers and two deputies."



WITNESS E told the Madlanga Commission that suspended police minister Senzo Mchunu personally tried to coach him into lying under oath to the commission. | OUPA MOKOENA Independent Newspapers

Major-General shared confidential police information with Matlala

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KWAZULU-NATAL Hawks head Major-General Lesetja Senona came under scrutiny at the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry yesterday for sharing confidential police information, including ID numbers, with suspected crime kingpin Vusimuzi "Cat" Matlala.

This was after Senona had emphatically stated during Tuesday's testimony that he would never share police-held information with anyone, saying he was bound by the SAPS oath.

However, it emerged yesterday that Senona had forwarded an affidavit with personal information on alleged kidnapper Esmal Nangy to Matlala.

The affidavit in question contained hefty attachments bearing confidential information on some SAPS officers and Hawks officers in KZN under Senona's supervision.

Senona told the commission that he sent the affidavit to Matlala "to sensitise him to be aware of this gentleman in his area (Centurion) that was arrested for kidnapping and extortion."

But co-commissioner Advocate Sesi Baloyi SC wanted to know how Senona obtained confidential documents and why he sent them to a private citizen.

"We have documents that are official state documents, and you sent them to a private citizen who is your friend/brother who is accused of involvement in serious alleged crimes. What we are doing is that we are battling to get an understanding of how it is that you gained possession of these documents that you forwarded," she said.

Baloyi expressed shock that Senona shared a document containing Nangy's ID, picture, and personal details, including his



marriage certificate, with Matlala.

"This is highly personal information, which, in a different context, you are precluded by the Protection of Personal Information Act from distributing further and sharing it with Mr Matlala," she said.

She slammed Senona's actions, saying sharing such personal information with Matlala, accused of serious crimes, showed "at best, a lack of judgement if it wasn't deliberate."

Senona stuck to his story, claiming he did not notice the additional attachments with other people's personal information when he shared the affidavit with Matlala.

Advocate Sandile Khumalo SC, co-commissioner, highlighted that Senona also shared confidential information on SAPS detectives and crime intelligence officials, including their ID numbers, with Matlala.

Khumalo also asked him: "If someone leaks information, is it not your responsibility to say whoever leaked the letter made a mistake and I shouldn't be doing that?"

That was after Senona's claim that he obtained the documents from a News24 website or via WhatsApp was disputed during testimony, adding that he shared

them because they were already in the public domain.

The commission pointed out that the News24 article merely stated the writer had seen the affidavit, with no attachment.

The commission highlighted that Senona shared confidential documents in March 2025 despite having top security clearance that explicitly barred him from doing so.

It also emerged that Matlala sent Senona confidential documents about the Senzo and Thembeke Mchunu foundation, including a top-secret document on President Cyril Ramaphosa and a corruption article on Rustenburg Local Municipality, after one of their meetings. Senona surprisingly claimed he did not open or read them, unaware of their contents.

Despite the fact that Senona had referred to Matlala as his brother and friend, he claimed he did not know Matlala was involved in the Tembisa hospital tender scandal linked to whistleblower Barbata Deokaran's murder.

He claimed he only learned of Matlala's link to the Tembisa hospital scandal through commission-shared newspaper articles.

KWAZULU-Natal Hawks head Major-General Lesetja Senona is facing allegations of sharing confidential police information with Vusimuzi "Cat" Matlala, an alleged underworld kingpin. | OUPA MOKOENA Independent Newspapers

ment is that when it comes to anything concerning Mr Matlala, when you look at the text, it is either you don't recall or you do not know, and it is a text staring you in your face you will say, 'yes I do read it now but I do not recall what this was all about'. That is a theme that runs through your testimony," he said.

Madlanga poked holes in Senona's testimony, saying he seemed to conveniently "not recall" key events, like the Durban apartment meeting.

On Tuesday, Senona testified that the Durban apartment meeting was hosted by KwaZulu-Natal commissioner Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi on April 15, 2025, at his homestead to discuss Matlala's purchase order disputes related to his Medicare 24's R360-million SAPS medical service contract to SAPS Pretoria College.

The meeting was allegedly organised by former Police Minister Bheki Cele, and Senona was asked by Matlala to accompany him to the meeting for "morale support". Cele was not present at the meeting.

Senona claimed he missed parts of the discussion at the Durban meeting as he was busy refilling his whiskey and moving between rooms.

STALLED

Msunduzi faces backlash over failed billion rand public transport project

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AFTER one billion rand was spent, six kilometres of highway is all that the Msunduzi Municipality has to show of a bus rapid transport system project that the National Treasury is now considering shutting down.

The work completed, city councillors have said, constitutes about 20% of the work that should have been done in a project that started 10 years ago.

The Integrated Public Transport Network System (IPTNS) programme, otherwise known as the BRT (bus rapid transport) system, was meant to create fast and reliable public transport in the Pietermaritzburg area and is now on the verge of becoming a white elephant.

The revelations on the perilous state of the project have angered ratepayers and councillors who said those who failed to deliver should be held accountable.

The national committee on Transport visited the city this week and stated that the national Department of Transport has ordered the winding down of the Msunduzi project.

Chairperson, Donald Selamolela, expressed that the successful implementation of the programme had the potential to be a catalyst for economic growth and job creation. "The programme, otherwise known as the BRT system, should not have failed, especially after so much money had already been spent. This programme ought not only to have benefited commuters but should have provided employment

opportunities for our people.

"We are disappointed and concerned with what we found in Pietermaritzburg [Msunduzi Local Municipality]. The programme is going to become a white elephant if nothing is done." He mentioned that the National Department of Transport informed the committee that the project will be discontinued.

"Currently, the national department has ordered a stop, while the municipality insists it has plans to continue. That does not work; the municipality should use the available funding to develop comprehensive work plans to repurpose the already laid-out infrastructure."

Speaking to The Mercury, he detailed the extent of the problems in the area. He noted that when the committee was last there in 2022, "if you compare the work we found then and now, there is very little progress that has been made."

He stated that the road has no buses, no bus stops, no access bridges for passengers, and sections of it need to be expanded, which could require the relocation of factories close to the road, necessitating huge sums of money to do so. He suggested that they could repurpose the infrastructure to allow for the use of the road to ease traffic congestion.

Even with the project stopped, we cannot allow public funds to go to waste. Almost a billion rand has been spent on that project."

DA councillor Bongumusa Nhlathathi warned that if the project results in a white elephant, it will be purely due to the failure of the administration and the governing

party's inefficiencies.

"There was no proper planning and a failure to engage the relevant stakeholders. What's missing now is for the bus fleet to be purchased and be on the road. The residents need that service to address traffic congestion. Officials responsible for this project should be disciplined. The whole project was supposed to be completed by 2021. What's done for now is like 20%," he said.

ACDP councillor Rienus Niemand mentioned that they had been told by the municipal manager that the IPTN delays would be addressed without delay. The road section specifically built for taxis and buses will be opened as a matter of urgency.

"This project has been going on forever without resolution," he said. Anthony Waldhausen from the Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC) expressed disappointment in the way the municipality has handled the project, adding that it was marred by many irregularities and poor planning.

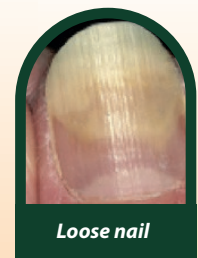
In a statement, the municipality said it had engaged with the committee on the issue.

"The Municipality noted guidance from the National Department of Transport indicating that the Public Transport Network Grant (PTNG) will be gradually wound down over the next three years. In this regard, Msunduzi Municipality and the Department reaffirmed their commitment to working collaboratively to manage the transition in a manner that protects progress already achieved and supports sustainable outcomes."



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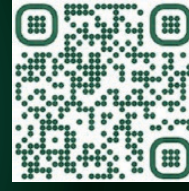
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