

23 October 2023

Mr. Mathatha Tsedu

By e-mail: tsedumathatha66@gmail.com

Our Ref: HLA/23

“URGENT”

Dear Mr Tsedu,

RE: HLAUDI MOTSOENENG – OUR CLIENT

IN RE: CEASE AND DESIST/ DEFAMATORY PUBLICATIONS.

1. We refer to the above and hereby confirm that we act on behalf of Mr Hlaudi Motsoeneng (“our client”), former South African Broadcasting Corporation (“SABC”) Chief Operations Officer and currently leader of the political party African Content Movement (ACM), which has representation in municipal councils and will be contesting the upcoming national elections.
2. We have been instructed to address you herein at our client’s instance and request.

3. During or around 15 October 2023 you published in the Sunday Times, an opinion piece titled “We had to break the rules to keep the SABC alive” which post contained various scathing, unlawful, wrongful and defamatory material relating to our client.
4. The opinion piece has been shared electronically on the Times Live website <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/opinion-and-analysis/opinion/2023-10-15-we-had-to-break-the-rules-to-keep-the-sabc-alive/>. Times Live is the second-biggest news website, and is the home of the Sunday Times newspaper and daily digital newsroom.
5. During or around 23 October 2023 you repeated these defamatory remarks during a television interview conducted by Mr Xoli Mngambi on Newzroom Afrika which is a South African 24-hour news and information service.
6. Your allegations made contains numerous false and unlawful remarks which have the sole intention of causing damage to our client’s reputation and dignity. By extension, they have also been made in effort to disparage the good name and reputation of our client in both his personal and professional capacity, and to sully our client’s reputation within South Africa and internationally. These unfounded allegations have the impact to seriously harm our client’s reputation as he seeks to contest the 2024 national elections.
7. Your defamatory allegations have not only prejudiced our client but are also an act of bad faith as you are aware or should have been aware that your remarks make direct reference to allegations of fraud and corruption for which our client has never been charged or convicted.

8. Given the spurious and defamatory nature of your allegations, our client will be forced to take all necessary steps to clear his good name and reputation including but not limited to a defamation application against you as well as issuing a statement to the media, should the need arise.
9. Not only have you displayed a vested interest in and intention to defame our client, but your engagements with third parties in the media, have exacerbated the situation by allowing such third parties, to further ridicule, defame and humiliate our client publicly further increasing the defamatory effect of your post.
10. Further, you have made no effort to mitigate the situation nor to alleviate any adverse consequences of your conduct.
11. In the light of the above we hereby demand that you immediately retract all media posts and / or pages on all media platforms containing any false and defamatory information or misrepresentations such as those elucidated in this letter.
12. Additionally, we demand that you refrain from making any media posts and / or pages containing any false and defamatory information or misrepresentations regarding our client in any manner whatsoever.
13. Lastly, we demand that you immediately furnish our client, through our offices with the following in writing by no later than **18:00 on Wednesday, 25 October 2023**:
 - 13.1. Confirmation that all defamatory posts of any nature whatsoever have been removed from all media platforms;



13.2. An undertaking that you will desist from any future false, defamatory and disparaging remarks about our client.

13.3. A written retraction and apology addressed to our client and shared on all platforms wherein the defamatory material was shared.

14. Should you fail to do so we are instructed to take further legal action against you for damages on the grounds of defamation, including a cost order against you.

15. We trust that you will be guided accordingly.

Yours Sincerely,

BUANG JONES ATTORNEYS INC.

Buang Jones

Director

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Letter sent electronically.