

## NATIONAL

# Zuma 'aims to control police'

● *Opposition parties unimpressed with president's choice of former bodyguard as acting crime-intelligence head*

**Khulekani Magubane**  
Parliamentary Writer

President Jacob Zuma is slowly trying to capture the country's crime-fighting units by planting his own people in key police units, opposition parties say.

Police Minister Fikile Mbalula announced on Thursday the appointment of Bhozi Ngcobo, a former bodyguard of the president, as the acting head of crime intelligence.

Former acting head of crime

intelligence Pat Mokushane was dismissed on Monday over accusations that he had run his own business from work, helped himself to South African Police Service (SAPS) funds and got top security clearance without due vetting.

Mbalula said Ngcobo had "a wealth of policing experience and is not new within the crime-intelligence environment".

However, MPs were not confident that Ngcobo was the best choice, with police parlia-

mentary committee member for the Freedom Front Plus Petrus Groenewald saying such an appointment would not inspire the confidence of citizens.

"It is clear that Zuma still wants control over intelligence services as a whole, including SAPS. Citizens will pay the price because crime is clearly getting worse," said Groenewald.

Ngcobo's appointment was a sign that Zuma was doubling down on the levers of power at police agencies, he said.

"We are also waiting for a full-on appointment of a national police commissioner by the president. Pro-Zuma loyalists are being deployed and this gives the wrong signal that we are going to get a political appointment for national police commissioner," Groenewald said.

Committee member Zakhele Mbhele of the DA said the state of affairs at the police was not likely to be improved if officers associated with Zuma were the only ones getting appointed to

top positions. "Ngcobo is an example of the string of enmeshed appointments that have been made in police over the years, [that] have directly led to mismanagement and ultimately undermine the fight against crime," said Mbhele.

Ngcobo was a former crime-intelligence officer. In 2009, he became the team leader for Zuma's presidential protection services, City Press reported.

He was later promoted to section head of VIP protection

before being appointed the national head in July 2016.

South African Policing Union general secretary Oscar Skomere said the union was trying to establish what Ngcobo's role was in crime intelligence after he left Protection and Security Services in 2016.

It is not the first time that Ngcobo has been head of crime intelligence. He acted in this position in 2012, after the suspension of Lt-Gen Richard Mdluli in 2011.

GUPTA SAGA

## Bell Pottinger found guilty of breaching codes

**Graeme Hosken**

Bell Pottinger, the controversial international public relations firm linked to the Gupta family, has been found to be in breach of the codes of the UK-based Public Relations and Communications Association.

While the firm has contravened at least one of the association's codes, it is still not known what action, if any, will be taken against the company.

The association would release its findings and rulings on September 4, it was reported on the website PRWeek.

The DA had taken Bell Pottinger to the association and the Chartered Institute of Public Relations over allegations that the firm was guilty of inciting racial hatred in SA.

Bell Pottinger is a member of the organisations, which have strict codes of governance.

The DA alleged the firm worked for the Guptas and devised a strategy of protest against "white monopoly capital" to divert attention from criticism of the Gupta family's activities.

The party said such action contravened the codes of conduct of the two organisations.

The DA's Phumzile Van Damme said in a statement the party had received confirmation that its complaint against Bell Pottinger had been upheld.

"This means the PRCA [Public Relations and Communications Association] professional practices committee has agreed that Bell Pottinger did indeed violate its professional charter

and/or its public affairs and lobbying code of conduct."

Bell Pottinger would be given five days to appeal against the decision if it so chose, she said.

"If Bell Pottinger appeals, the PRCA's board of management will consider the appeal and either approve, amend or overrule the decision by the professional practices committee and then publish the final decision during the week beginning September 4 2017."

Van Damme said the DA looked forward to the association's full decision regarding disciplinary action against Bell Pottinger. The firm's work for Oakbay Capital, the Gupta family and President Jacob Zuma's son Duduzane Zuma had exploited the already sensitive race relations in SA, she said.

"A strong message must be sent by the PRCA that unethical conduct by its members will not be tolerated. We trust that a strong sanction will be given against Bell Pottinger."

"We reiterate our call for Bell Pottinger to do the right thing and disclose all Gupta contracts and monies from their accounts with the Guptas and reinvest it into SA," Van Damme said.

Bell Pottinger's campaign themes were aired frequently on a Gupta-owned television station and on social media.

On July 6, Bell Pottinger said it had fired a partner in charge of its public relations campaign in SA. It said the firm was "deeply sorry" and that elements of the campaign had been "inappropriate and insensitive" in a country with a troubled racial past.

ASSAULT CLAIMS

## MPs want to grill minister over Mugabe

**Khulekani Magubane**  
Parliamentary Writer

Parliament's portfolio committee on international relations and co-operation is anxious to grill minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane on her decision to grant diplomatic immunity to Zimbabwean first lady Grace Mugabe.

National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete announced on Thursday that Parliament would look into the minister's decision to let the wife of President Robert Mugabe avoid justice after she had allegedly assaulted a woman in Johannesburg.

The DA and the Inkatha Free-

dom Party (IFP) wrote to Parliament, asking for an inquiry.

The DA has also taken Mashabane to court to compel her to explain her decision.

Nkoana-Mashabane wrote to the speaker, explaining why she absolved Mugabe of all culpability and gave her diplomatic immunity over the incident.

International relations and co-operation committee chairman Siphosizwe Masango said that a meeting between the minister and the committee would clarify her rationale rather than allow the opposition to exploit the situation to impeach the ANC.

"The minister has written a



**Justification:** International Relations and Co-operation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane wrote to the speaker explaining why she had absolved Zimbabwe's Grace Mugabe of culpability. /Puxley Makgatho

letter to me indicating her willingness to come and explain to the committee. The letter is dated August 23. We looked at the requests from [the] IFP and

DA looking for her to explain. I thanked her for the letter and told her that the committee would like to summon her," said Masango. Members of the port-

folio committee should be open to the possibility that there was nothing untoward about Nkoana-Mashabane's decision, Masango said. Various countries

in the world would have opted to grant the spouse of a head of state the same privilege, he said.

"Mugabe was granted immunity to leave the country. It is spousal immunity. The act speaks of derivative immunity, where if she is with the spouse of an official or a person who holds the diplomatic immunity, it applies to her as well," he said.

Committee member for the DA Santosh Kalyan said it had been "unanimously accepted by all the parties present at the meeting that the minister must speak to the committee. The idea is to get the minister to explain how the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act applies to the first lady as well as establish what kind of passport she travelled here with."

She said it would be critical to determine the status of Mugabe's visit as it appeared to be a personal one to resolve family matters.

There was no indication that she would appear on the Southern African Development Community programme or that she would address it, Kalyan said. magubane@businesslive.co.za



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City of Johannesburg Executive Mayor Herman Mashaba calls on all Joburg residents to partner with the City to clean up their neighbourhoods on the **last Saturday of each month**, starting from the **30th September**.



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