

**IN THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO STOPPED TRC INVESTIGATIONS
AND/OR PROSECUTIONS**

AFFIDAVIT OF ANTON ROSSOUW ACKERMANN

I, the undersigned

ANTON ROSSOUW ACKERMANN

state under oath as follows:

Introduction

1. I am an adult male, a senior counsel, and a former Special Director of Public Prosecutions in the Office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions ("NDPP"). I am currently retired and residing in the Western Cape.
2. In terms of section 13(1)(c) of the National Prosecuting Act No. 32 of 1998 ("the Act"), I was appointed by President TM Mbeki, under a Presidential Proclamation dated 24 March 2003, to head the Priority Crimes Litigation Unit ("PCLU"), located at the head office of the National Prosecuting Authority ("NPA"). I served as head of the PCLU from 2003 to 2013, when I retired.
3. Save where appears from the context, the facts contained in this affidavit are within my own personal knowledge and are to the best of my knowledge and belief both true and correct.



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4. I depose to this affidavit to assist the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into stopped TRC Investigations and/or Prosecutions ("**the Commission**") to address paragraphs 1 to 1.3.2 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

Confirmation of affidavits

5. I confirm the contents of my affidavit dated 7 May 2015 which was attached as a supporting affidavit in the matter of *Nkadimeng v NDPP and Others* (Gauteng Division, Case No. 36554/2015). I will rely on the full contents of this affidavit to address the aforesaid paragraphs of the terms of reference. A copy of this affidavit was supplied by Webber Wentzel attorneys¹ to the Commission on 10 October 2025 in divider (bundle) 3 at paginated pages 890 - 907.
6. I also confirm the contents of the founding affidavit of Lukhanyo Calata dated 17 January 2025 filed in *Calata & Others v Government of South Africa & Others* (Gauteng Division, Case No. 2025-005245), insofar as it pertains to me ("**the Calata affidavit**"). A certified copy of this affidavit was supplied by Webber Wentzel attorneys to the Commission on 10 October 2025 in bundle 1 at paginated pages 1 - 842.
- 6.1 In respect of paragraph 33.1 of my aforesaid affidavit and paragraph 234 of the Calata affidavit I point out that the letter from the SAPS Legal Support Section Maj Gen P C Jacobs was probably addressed to the NDPP not the Priority Crimes Litigation Unit ("**PCLU**").
- 6.2 I also point out that in respect of paragraph 216 and the first line of paragraph 217 of the Calata affidavit the Senior Superintendent Britz

¹ Attorneys for the 22 families and the Foundation for Human Rights.




referred to therein is "Hennie Britz" and not "Karel Johannes 'Suiker' Britz".

Reliance on Macadam affidavit and annexes

7. I align myself with the contents of the affidavit of Raymond Christopher Macadam ("**Macadam**") filed in the Joao Rodrigues stay of prosecution case in *Rodrigues v NDPP & Others* (Case No. 76755/18, Gauteng Division). I will rely on the contents of this affidavit, together with the documents attached to that affidavit, to address the aforesaid terms of reference. A copy of this affidavit was supplied by Webber Wentzel attorneys to the Commission on 10 October 2025 in bundle 1 at paginated pages 276 - 359.

Provision of new documents

8. I attach to this affidavit two documents that are not currently part of the record provided by Webber Wenzel attorneys on 10 October 2025.
- 8.1 A letter dated 16 March 2004 I addressed to Raymond Lalla, the Divisional Commissioner of SAPS Crime Intelligence ("**Lalla**"), annexed hereto marked "A".
- 8.2 An internal memorandum dated 27 September 2007 I addressed to DSO Head, Adv Leonard McCarthy ("**McCarthy**") titled "Project Gnome".
9. In the letter to Lalla, I expressed my displeasure at him secretly videotaping a confidential meeting I held with him on 25 August 2003, in respect of the TRC cases. In that meeting I voiced my frustration and disgust with the refusal of the DSO to take on the TRC cases. That videotape was then handed over to



NDPP Ngcuka, Deputy NDPP Ramaite and DSO Head McCarthy. I was then called into a meeting with them and confronted with the video recording.

10. The internal memorandum sent to McCarthy on 27 September 2007 dealt with the investigation into the fabricated note I referred to in my 2015 affidavit from paragraph 35 (bundle 1, paginated page 905).² In this memorandum I explained to McCarthy why the note was definitely forged.

Request to locate documents / evidence

11. I respectfully request the Commission to secure or subpoena the following documents and items of evidence:

11.1 From the Department and Ministry of Justice:

11.1.1 Minutes and records of the following bodies:

11.1.1.1 Special Cabinet Committee on the Post TRC cases / Subcommittee of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cabinet Committee on Post TRC matters.

11.1.1.2 Committee of Directors General, in respect of their deliberations on the TRC cases.

11.1.1.3 The Amnesty Task Team.

11.1.1.4 The Inter-departmental Task Team on the TRC cases.

11.2 From the NPA:

² See also paragraph 260 of the Calata affidavit.



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- 11.2.1 A copy of the fabricated note referred to in paragraph 10 above.
- 11.2.2 Relevant documents, including reports and correspondence, from the person commissioned to investigate the hacking of my computer in respect of the fabricated note.
- 11.2.3 Report on the costs expended for the services of the investigator.
- 11.3 From the SAPS:
- 11.3.1 The original fabricated note that was allegedly in the possession of the DSO.
- 11.3.2 The videotape made by Raymond Lalla of the meeting with me, Torie Pretorius and Chris Macadam on 25 August 2003.

Allegations of Imtiaz Cajee

12. I was sent an undated Notice in terms of Rule 3.3 with various allegations made by Imtiaz Cajee arising from his affidavit dated 30 September 2025.

Paragraph 47: No concerted effort

13. In respect of Cajee's allegation in paragraph 47, I point out that I was only appointed as head of the PCLU on 24 March 2003 and the then NDPP declared the TRC cases to be priority crimes in May 2023. I was not personally involved in the Ahmed Timol case, which was being handled by Adv Chris Macadam, but it was one of the TRC cases falling within our mandate.
14. Extensive efforts to secure investigators for the TRC cases were made from early May 2003 shortly after their designation as priority crimes, as set out in

Handwritten signature and initials, possibly 'SW'.

the Macadam and Calata affidavits. As stated in the aforesaid affidavits both the Directorate for Special Investigations (“DSO” or “Scorpions”) and the South African Police (“SAPS”) declined to investigate the TRC cases.

15. This effectively blocked the investigation of the TRC cases for several years and severely undermined the prospects of justice in those cases, including the Timol case.
16. I deny that I placed the burden of investigating the Timol case onto Cajee, but I accept that in the absence of investigations by the DSO / SAPS, families, including the Timol family, felt obliged to carry out their own investigations.

Paragraphs 195 - 6: Failure to create mechanism and to approach the President

Paragraph 207: Allegation of no interference

Paragraphs 208-9: Alleged failure to resist

17. I agree that government failed to take steps to investigate the TRC cases. I also agree that the President should have been approached.
18. As I was not the NDPP it was not within my prerogative or power to contact the President.
19. However, after DSO Special Director Adv MG ‘Geoph’ Ledwaba (“Ledwaba”) refused to sign the section 28(1)(b)³ notices in respect of the TRC cases, I recall that I approached either Adv Leonard McCarthy, then head of the DSO, or Adv Bulelani Ngcuka, then NDPP, or Adv Silas Ramaite, then Deputy NDPP to expedite the signing of the said notices.

³ Inquiries by Investigating Director in terms of the National Prosecuting Act 32 of 1998.



A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the initials 'S W' in a similar style.

20. Regrettably, the said notices were not authorised, notwithstanding my efforts. I did not have the power to take the matter further than that.
21. Within the NPA I raised my concern about the obstruction of the TRC cases. I refused to take part in the amendments to the Prosecution Policy, which I regarded as unconstitutional.
22. On 3 May 2007, NDPP Pikoli and I appeared before the Justice Portfolio Committee in Parliament. I advised that the lack of progress in the TRC cases was not the fault of the PCLU. Pikoli advised the Commission that "*there was politically sensitive issue*", and that "*whenever there was an attempt to charge the former police there was a political intervention and that effectively the NPA was being held to ransom by the former generals.*"⁴
23. From around 2006 I advised families and lawyers that we were struggling to get investigators for the TRC cases and suggested they should pursue inquests rather than prosecutions.
24. I agree with the views of the Full Court in the Rodrigues matter that the NPA should have asserted its authority and independence and resisted the political interference.
25. Because of my opposition to the interference in the TRC cases I was relieved of my duties in respect of these cases in September 2007, and it is also one of the reasons why Pikoli was suspended as NDPP.
26. To the extent that Cajee alleges that there was no interference in the work of prosecutors in the TRC cases, I deny such a claim.

⁴ See para 250 of the Calata affidavit.



The block contains a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'CWI'. Below the signature, the initials 'CWI' are written in a similar style.

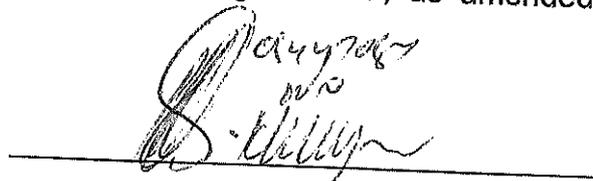
27. To the extent that Cajee describes me as an old order prosecutor acting in the interests of the former regime, I point out that I always prosecuted without fear or prejudice, regardless of the nature of the case. I was the lead prosecutor in the prosecution of former apartheid security operatives: Eugene de Kock, Wouter Basson and Ferdi Barnard, amongst others.

28. In this regard I annex hereto marked "C" a note I received from George Bizos SC in relation to my role at the inquest of Jabu Vilakazi, in which he also appeared.



ANTON ROSSOUW ACKERMANN

The Deponent has acknowledged that the Deponent knows and understands the contents of this affidavit, which was signed and sworn to or solemnly affirmed before me at Hermanus on 25 October 2025, the regulations contained in Government Notice No. R1258 of 21 July 1972, as amended, and Government Notice No. R1648 of 19 August 1977, as amended, having been complied with.



COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

Full names: Sikhindile Mkhobeli
 Business address: 61 Main Road
 Designation: Warrant officer
 Capacity:

P O Box 10036
MORELETA PLAZA
0167
16 March 2004

Commissioner Lalla
The Divisional Commissioner
Crime Intelligence
Private Bag X302
PRETORIA
0001

Dear Commissioner Lalla,

With reference to your clandestine audio and visual monitoring of our confidential discussion on 25 August 2003, I wish to convey my utmost disgust at such underhanded conduct.

It is accepted practice amongst professionals, when it is desirable that a meeting be recorded that it be done openly.

The purpose of my meeting with you was to further the interest of justice. You came highly recommended to me by Macadam and Pretorius as a sincere and trustful colleague. Obviously they made a grave error of judgement.

Unfortunately because of this experience I am left with the firm impression that the only difference between your division and the old security regime is the change in surnames. (See the attached documents indicating previous attempts "to get rid of me"). Only time will tell if you have succeeded and whether the end justify the means.

In closing I wish to echo the answer by Oscar Wilde during his cross-examination: "Don't you have any decency?"



AR ACKERMANN
HEAD: PCLU



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Priority Crimes Litigation Unit
VGM Building
PRETORIA

P. O. Box 752,
PRETORIA
0001

VGM Building
Hartley St.
Weavind Park
0001
Pretoria
South Africa

Tel: (012) 845 6474
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INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

TO : ADV LEONARD McCARTHY
DIRECTORATE OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS

FROM : ADV AR ACKERMANN
PRIORITY CRIMES LITIGATION UNIT

DATE : 27 SEPTEMBER 2007

SUBJECT : PROJECT GNOME

Dear Leonard

1. I shall be brief.
2. I am adamant and 100% sure that the figure "6" as reflected in the handwriting expert's document, FDC 0095/07 (Annexure "E") is not in my handwriting.
3. I am of the view that you do not need a handwriting expert to establish that fact.
4. Furthermore, it is important to note that the handwriting expert made no such finding and merely remarked:

"*...with no alteration to the last figure '6'.*"
5. Within minutes after I had received the said memorandum from Commissioner Jacobs, I phoned him and informed him that the memorandum was forged and requested him to furnish me with the original. To date, I have not had sight of the original.
6. It is incomprehensible that somebody will post-date by three



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years the year on a document. To pre-date the year during the months of January or February is quite common.

7. I have never, on any occasion, written to Dr Ramaite in Afrikaans.
8. The crucial question is whether any person in SAPS had a motive or reason to produce a document, emanating from the NPA, to the effect that the NPA was still investigating ANC office bearers during 2006.
9. If no such motive exists, I must accept that the *gravamen* of the disputed document falls away.
10. Kindly find attached hereto a letter from the Minister to Adv Pikoli.
11. I am very interested to know which documents the National Commissioner "... produced to support his argument that indeed there is an investigation by the NPA on certain political office bearers."
12. If the disputed document is relied on by the National Commissioner to prove that there is indeed an investigation by the NPA on ANC office bearers, then this will contradict the explanation given by Commissioners de Beer and Jacobs to the effect that since 2003, SAPS were fully aware that the disputed document had been compiled in 2003 and that an incorrect date had been inserted on it.
13. I will not bore you with the numerous improbabilities which exist.
14. Adv Macadam stated in his report, addressed to you and others, that I had informed him on 25 August 2007 that the disputed report had been discussed between the NDPP and the National Commissioner. That is not correct. Macadam further stated that the NDPP had informed me that the disputed report had been shown to various Ministers. That is also not correct. The NDPP and I surmised that the disputed report had probably been the document shown to the Ministers in the light of the National Commissioner's assertion that he had written proof that I was still investigating the ANC leadership. The Minister's letter sheds more light on this matter.

Regards



AR ACKERMANN



SUA

GEORGE BIZOS S.C.

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4th Floor, Elizabeth House
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Johannesburg 2001
Tel: (011) 836-9831
Fax: (011) 834-4273

Postal Address:
P O Box 9495, Johannesburg
2000

Your Ref:

Our Ref: George Bizos/JK

14 January 1998

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

During 1976 - 1977 I appeared at a formal inquest in the Magistrate's Court, Johannesburg on behalf of the family of Jabu Vilakazi who was killed by members of the South African Police. The prosecutor who led the evidence was Mr A R. Ackermann now senior counsel in the office of the Attorney-General in Pretoria. It was contended by us on behalf of the family that members of the Brixton Murder and Robbery Unit arrested the late Vilakazi, took him for a so-called pointing out and then shot him in cold blood and that their story that they did so because he tried to escape was a fabrication. It was customary during that period for prosecutors to defend the police irrespective of the weight of evidence against them. To our surprise, Mr Ackermann's objectivity was demonstrated by submitting that the members of the Brixton Murder and Robbery Unit were criminally responsible for the death of the deceased. In my view, this was a breath of fresh air and gave one hope that despite the pressures that must have existed on a comparatively junior member of the profession, he courageously and correctly submitted what he believed to be in accordance with his oath of office. We were not alone in that belief. The Magistrate made a positive finding in accordance with Mr Ackermann's and our submissions. I have always singled him out as the outstanding exception amongst those who thought that protecting the police was more important than serving justice. Although we have lost touch, I am reliably informed that he has continued to behave in an objective and proper manner throughout his professional career. I am pleased to place on record what has been in my mind for so long.

George Bizos

[Signature]

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