

I am currently looking into matters involving Vodacom's work in the government sector, specifically in the Free State province. Kindly consider the following queries for an upcoming news article and kindly provide me with your responses by or before close of business (17:00) on Friday 27 March 2020.

BACKGROUND: As you may know, Vodacom has commissioned an investigation into Vodacom's dealings in the Free State government sector. The investigations determined that Vodacom's relationship with a Supplier Development (SD) or BEE partner, Supana Technologies, may have constituted a corrupt relationship and triggered other alleged criminal transgressions.

Vodacom first entered into an agreement with Supana Technologies while you were Vodacom's Group Executive for Business.

Please consider the following queries relating to Vodacom's relationship with Supana.

- 1) Sources familiar with this matter claim that you played a central and direct role in Vodacom's decision to bring Supana Technologies on board as a partner to Vodacom, specifically in relation to Vodacom's contracts from Free State provincial government departments. Was this the case? Please comment.
  - i. This is not correct as a Chief Officer for Vodacom Business I was not involved in partner selection and onboarding.
  - ii. Moreover, this partner was from the Region which means they would have approached the regional management for consideration to be a partner in which case the regional management would have put together a motivation for onboarding to the Managing Executive Public Sector.
  - iii. Upon satisfactory evaluation, the Managing Executive Public Sector would approve the application subject to the potential partner passing the due diligence by the Governance and Risk Function of Vodacom.
  - iv. Once the potential partner has successfully passed the risk and governance screening process a trading code would then be generated to the supplier.
  
- 2) How did you first come to hear about Supana Technologies and/or its owner, a Mr Suping Motsemme?
  - i. The first time I knew of Mr Suping Motsemme was when I was invited by the Vodacom Business Management Team in the Free State to attend a presentation regarding the Fixed Business Opportunity the team was pursuing.
  - ii. He was introduced as an employee of Marangrang an ICT Small Medium Enterprise who was one of the two partners to Vodacom Business Free State, partnering in the opportunity.

3) Before Vodacom won the RT15-2016 transversal contract, Vodacom was already the preferred supplier of data and voice packages and related ICT services to the Free State provincial government. At that timeframe, Vodacom was in partnership with an array of SD/BEE partners in that province. However, it is being alleged that you informed these incumbent SD/BEE partners that they needed to make way for Supana Technologies as Vodacom's preferred partner for its work with the provincial government. Please comment.

- i. I refute these allegations with the contempt they deserve, because as explained in question 1 above, the Chief Officer Vodacom Business does not deal with partner onboarding, not at all.
- ii. Instead the Free State Regional Management had introduced a new additional partner Supana Technologies as part of expanding their channel reach.
- iii. Right until I left Vodacom all three SME partners continued to do business in the Free State Province, split between Fixed and Mobile Opportunities.

4) Please indicate who the person or persons were that were that had been putting pressure on you and/or Vodacom to bring Supana Technologies/Suping Motsemme on board as a partner for Free State provincial government contracts. Please indicate whether then Premier Ace Magashule and/or any of his colleagues and/or associates had ever influenced you or pressured you into taking Supana on board as a partner to Vodacom.

- i. I reject the suggestion that I was responsible for bringing Supana Technologies to be a partner to Vodacom.
- ii. As the Chief Officer for Vodacom Business I was far removed from partner selection and onboarding, the responsible national and regional managers and executives were responsible for partner onboarding.

5) Were you ever aware of the fact that Mr Suping Motsemme was closely linked to then premier Ace Magashule?

- i. I was not aware of any relationship between Suping Motsemme and Ace Magashule.
- ii. It was only towards my exit at Vodacom that I heard that Suping may have an association with Ace Magashule a hearsay I never got to prove.

6) Did your departure from Vodacom in order to become the CEO of SAA in 2017 in any way relate to Vodacom's dealings with Supana Technologies/Suping Motsemme? Or did the investigation into this matter, and into your role in this matter, in any way play a role in your move from Vodacom to SAA? Were you asked by Vodacom to leave the company?

- i. Pieter, I find the insinuations in your question above troubling at best and libelous and defamatory at worst and as such all my rights are reserved in this regard.
- ii. To answer your question, I left Vodacom in good standing and at the time of my departure there was no investigation into the Free State Business.
- iii. Even if there were to be an investigation, it would not be the reason for me to leave Vodacom as I had not breached any policy and had not committed any criminal activity.

Thanks for your consideration. Please feel free to add any information or comment you deem as being relevant to this matter.