

1. I understand that before Marangrang IT started working with Vodacom in the Free State, you were an ICT manager at the Xhariep District Municipality. Could you kindly indicate when you started working there and when you left?

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*Started in 2010 as and left in 2013.*

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2. Please provide me with a brief account of how and when Marangrang IT was founded. Who were its first clients?

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*Marangrang IT Solution started as an Internet Café and PC Repairs Shop in 2005 and subsequently registered as a Close Corporation in 2007. Our clientele composed of Households, Public Schools and Private Individuals and businesses.*

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3. Please provide me with an account of how Marangrang IT became a partner to Vodacom. Who at Vodacom picked or identified Marangrang IT as a partner?

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*I approached Vodacom for partnership and was not picked by anyone from Vodacom.*

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4. Did any sort of political meddling or pressure from the likes of then Premier Ace Magashule and/or any of his associates play a role in Vodacom's decision to bring Marangrang IT on board as a partner in the Free State?

*No political meddling or pressure from Mr. Ace Magashule or any of his associates play a role in Vodacom's decision to bring Marangrang IT on board as a Partner, I approached Vodacom for partnership.*

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Did then Premier Ace Magashule effectively instruct or order Vodacom to partner with Marangrang IT in exchange for the contracts Vodacom would receive from Free State provincial government departments?

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*No, I am not aware of any role played by the then Premier Mr. Ace Magashule in Marangrang's partnership with Vodacom. All work done by Marangrang in the Free State was as a result of Vodacom and Marangrang's partnership.*

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5. Please indicate what Marangrang's role was in the first round of contracts that Vodacom obtained from Free State Provincial Government departments in circa 2014 (ie. the contracts that came about before those awarded in accordance with the national RT15-2016 transversal). What services did you provide to Vodacom in relation to Vodacom's earlier contracts from FS departments?

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*Marangrang started at Vodacom as a partner in the mobile site of the business. Our role here was to upsell cell phone and data contracts to departments allocated to us under the Vodacom contract.*

*Secondly, after going through all of the Vodacom processes pertaining to fixed business we subsequently became a Purchase Order Vendor for Vodacom and we would do site surveys, put together proposal for departments surveyed with Vodacom and present such proposals to departmental teams. Once the proposal is accepted and an order issued we would get a PO from Vodacom to execute work specific to our areas of competency. This was mainly in areas of network cabling and switching, plus hardware supply.*

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6. Please indicate how you know Suping Motsemme. Where did you first meet him?

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*Mr. Suping Motsemme is a friend from wayback, when I was still a student in Johannesburg back in 2002 don't even remember the specific date when we first met.*

What other business dealings have you had with him?

*I don't understand what you referring to when you say "other" but we were both shareholders in Manyabolo Trading & Projects. A company we registered in 2013, but never did any work and was subsequently deregistered from the companies registrar.*

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In 2013, you and Suping Motsemme registered a company called Manyabolo Trading and Projects. What was the purpose of this entity?

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*The purpose or rather intention of registering Manyabolo Trading and Projects was to basically do business.*

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7. Please indicate how Suping Motsemme became involved in Marangrang IT, and what role he played in your company.

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*Suping as an employee of Marangrang IT Solution cc was responsible for Project and Office management. This is also stated in Marangrang's documents to Vodacom.*

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8. I understand that there is an MOU drawn up by Moroka Attorneys that formalises Suping Motsemme's role and/or stake in Marangrang IT - what does this MOU entail?

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*I'm not aware of an MOU detailing Mr. Suping Motsemme's role or stake in Marangrang IT Solution cc. Please share detail pertaining to such.*

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Is or was Suping Motsemme a shareholder in Marangrang IT?

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*From date of registration to now, Marangrang IT Solution cc has only one director, which is Mr. Thamsanqa Lomo and no other.*

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9. Are you or were you aware that Suping Motsemme is closely associated with former Premier Ace Magashule by way of his family ties to Mosidi Motsemme, the mother of three of Mr Magashule's children?

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*I don't know of any close association between Suping Motsemme and Mr Ace Magashule.*

*I know that Suping's aunt is Ms. Mosidi Motsemme.*

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10. Was Suping Motsemme placed inside Marangrang IT as a representative of Mr Magashule's interests in the Vodacom contracts?

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*I am not aware of any placement of Suping in Marangrang IT Solution cc and of anybody's interest in the company except that of the only shareholder.*

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Did Mr Magashule and/or any of his associates effectively compel you to take Suping Motsemme on board in exchange for the contracts Marangrang would get?

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*The decision to employ Mr. Motsemme was that of the company owner/shareholder and no one else.*

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Was Marangrang IT effectively a front for Suping Motsemme and, indirectly, for Mr Magashule or Mosidi Motsemme?

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*Marangrang is and has never been a front for anyone but continues to be a company that participates in every business endeavour solely for itself/ or the owner.*

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11. I understand Marangrang IT earned about R20-million in revenues from Vodacom in relation to Vodacom's contracts from Free State Provincial government departments. How much of that money did Marangrang forward to Suping Motsemme or the entities or accounts linked to or associated with Suping Motsemme?

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*As for the 20-million figure I would have to verify but given your time frame to respond and the lockdown that might not be possible to verify.*

*The only monies paid to Suping Motsemme were in line with the work done and I am not aware of any other monies paid to other entities associated with him. Also would have to go through files to give an exact figure but this would not be possible given the time frame allocated and the lockdown situation in the country.*

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Did Marangrang IT forward some of these proceeds to other third parties close to or associated with Mr Magashule and/or Mosidi Motsemme, such as the Ace Magashule Foundation?

*Marangrang IT Solution cc had and still has no business or any kind of relation with either Mr. Magashule or Ms. Motsemme such that we will forward any proceeds them.*

12. In our earlier telephonic conversation, you indicated that Marangrang IT's contracts from Vodacom were "taken" from you. Could you please elaborate on that - who exactly took the contract from you?

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*Which earlier conversation are you making reference to?*

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Were you intimating that Mr Magashule, a powerful role-player in the province at the time, had a hand in this?

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*No, like I said I don't remember saying anything like that.*

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13. In the above-mentioned conversation, you also said Supana Technologies and/or Suping Motsemme was "not competent" for the work it was doing for Vodacom in Marangrang's place. Please elaborate on this. Why did you take Suping Motsemme on board as a partner to Marangrang in the first place if he was not competent?

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*I don't recall making those allegations.*

*Feel free to check with Vodacom as it pertains to skill sets of both partners.*

*As for Suping's responsibilities at Marangrang are without question, hence he was compensated for their diligent execution and would continue to use them whenever a need arises.*

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14. Please provide me with your side of the story in regard to the RT15-2016 transversal contracts and Vodacom's decision to terminate or downscale Marangrang IT's contracts from or partnership with Vodacom. What were the reasons given to you by Vodacom, and which employees or executives at Vodacom were central in this process?

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*RT15-2016 was a National Transversal tender won by Vodacom in 2016 as far as I know.*

*Marangrang IT Solution cc is currently a Vodacom National partner and has never been terminated or downscaled as far as I know.*

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15. I understand that you complained to both Vodacom and to the Zondo Commission over the fact that Marangrang IT was replaced by Supana Technologies. Is this not a little rich, given the fact that you were quite happy to make space for Suping Motsemme when it was convenient for you to do so and when it ensured revenues for Marangrang IT? Is this not a case of one politically-connected role-player merely replacing another politically-connected role-player and the prior having sour grapes over such developments?

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*Whatever issues/ matters raised with Vodacom by Marangrang pertain to our partnership and you can feel free to contact Vodacom for minutes pertaining to minutes held between Marangrang and Vodacom as these were official Vodacom meetings .*

*As for the Zondo Commission of enquiry into State Capture Marangrang IT Solution cc was contacted to give evidence on a number of issues pertaining to the Free State Transversal tender and we are still to submit our responding affidavit, hence we not aware of any complain raised.*

*Hence your narrative is devoid of facts.*

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16. Why did your relationship with Suping Motsemme deteriorate? Why are you no longer working with him on ICT projects?

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*I disagree with your assertion Pieter, my friendship with Suping is still intact.*

*Which ICT projects are you referring to?*

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17. Speaking of political connections - in 2011 you registered a company called Ditlabonyane Youth Trading and Projects with Sello Pietersen from the ANC Youth League in the Free State. Please provide details on the nature or background of your connection to or relationship with Sello Pietersen. What was the purpose of this company you and Mr Pietersen set up?

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*Sello Pietersen is my cousin brother. The aim of the company was to do business.*

18. I understand you are rather active in ANC politics in the Free State, and photo's you have posted on social media certainly suggest you are. Would you say your affiliation to the ANC played a role in Marangrang's contracts in the Free State?

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*I am a member of the African National Congress in good standing and my political affiliation does not relate in anyway with Marangrang's business ventures as far as I am concerned.*

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19. When did you first meet former Premier Ace Magashule and/or Mosidi Motsemme, and under what circumstances?

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*As a member of the ANC and resident of the Free State I have met Cde Ace Magashule on a number of occasions, either at the organisations events or during his government programs as an MEC and subsequently a premier of the Free State.*

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Would you say you were "close" to Mr Magashule?

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*Not at all.*

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Did you and the former premier ever meet over Marangrang IT's contracts with Vodacom and/or any other work Marangrang was doing for Free State Provincial government departments?

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*Not at all.*

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Please elaborate.

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*I was a partner to Vodacom not government and there was no need to meet the former premier pertaining to Marangrang's Vodacom contracts or any other work Marangrang does in the Free State.*

Thanks for your consideration

Regards