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T0: Cde ' Saloojee  
Dept of International Affairs  
FROK: Jeremiah Kingsley Hanabolo  
Dept of Foreign Affairs  
DATE: 23rd November 1994

I thank you for bringing to my attention contents of a letter written by the Regional Treasurer in Zimbabwe, Sipho Ihlapo.

In this letter he makes the insinuation that I embezzled funds raised for voters education on the night of the 30th March 1994 (His letter refers to the date mistakenly or deliberately, as the 30th June - I had already left Zimbabwe having closed the Hission of the ARC on 1st March)

Before responding to his allegations I wish to make the following points for your consideration:

(1) His letter is addressed to the D6 of Foreign although its contents seem to be addressing the President. From the letters copied at the end of his letter it is clear that a copy has been sent to the Dept. of Foreign Affairs.

Surely this is a matter for the ARC to resolve since I was representing the organisation and not the government. I credit Sipho with enough intelligence to have realized this. The conclusion I reach is that this is more of a smear campaign than a genuine desire to resolve the matter. The manner he is handling this issue is to ensure that even if the ARC absolves me of his allegations, I should still be tainted within government circles. This alone questions my seriousness his real intentions.

(b) It is also important to note that during his long tenure of office he has been at logger heads with every Chief Rep. no, with everyone who has worked in that office. He has written nasty reports about every Chief Rep he has worked under. To give some example Judson Khuzwayo and 13x Khloniyeni were reported to have stolen thousands of Zimbabwean dollars. Stanley Mabizela is accused even today by Sipho of having given instructions to the AEC security in Tanzania to have a relative of his killed. Sipho still tell everybody he meets that Mabizela will one day account for his dead relative. Numerous reports were also written about Reddy lazinbu. Anybody interested in verifying all this can simply approach the above mentioned comrades fortunately they are still within our ranks.

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When I came to Harare for the second time, this time as Chief Representative, I found a deeply divided office. Sipho was in the center of every conflict. There were people who Sipho regarded as the Kolonyeni group (previous Chief Rep.) or the Xhosa group as he sometimes referred to them. Most of my work consisted of mediating between our treasurer and a member of the community or another member of the office staff. I tried my best to be neutral in these conflicts.

Seeking his cooperation I tried to demonstrate to him that I am not prejudiced by my past knowledge of him. In short it was the most difficult posting I ever had. Not once has he written a report about me. Apart from now. Elizabeth Hlati also known as Hadlamini and Kenosi Pholo (June) can verify the situation I am describing.

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It is in this background that we tried to organise the fund raising dinner dance. I raised the idea in an office committee in which he was present. I subsequently told him that I want him to be in the committee to handle funds. Numerous meetings were held for preparations in all these initial meetings he was present. Surely these cannot be described as the makings of one intending to pocket the proceedings.

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On three occasions, when we thought we were now ready to put our plan to action, the office failed to move forward. Again because of the squabbles described above.

Unfortunately for me it was a period when I was in and out, coming to Johannesburg for consultation and Germany for diplomatic training. Each time I came back to the office there would be more chaos and confusion all centring around Sipho. He would of course brilliantly defend himself and point out to the wrong doing of the others. The last attempt was even more serious in that invitations were sent out, dates set and the government was notified. All these came to naught and the event had to be cancelled reflecting very badly on the efficiency of the office. Again I must stress that verification can be sought from anyone who was a member of the office committee at the time.

I came to the conclusion that our office was not capable of organising such an event, to be more specific. Any committee in which Sipho was present for that matter. His actions wittingly or unwittingly were tantamount to sabotage. I informed Sipho without pointing a finger that since we are failing to organise it was my intention to form a committee of supporters. But obviously judging from his complaints he still expected to be part of any committee formed.

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I then came up with what I thought was another clever idea. Why not involve our supporters out there? and let them be responsible for organising and collecting funds which would then be donated to the AIC.

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I then moved around selling the idea to very high profile people, ministers, Deputy Ministers, members of Parliament, ZAIU members of the central committee and business people who I knew were closer to us. Most of them gave their support and advised as to how to go about organising such an event.

It later dawned to me that I should involve the not so high profile members of the community who would be able to dedicate time to organising such an event. Another hindering aspect to the very high profile people was the fact of the existence of the PAC and the Zimbabwean Government's policy of support to both liberation movements which made it extremely difficult for 8018 of them to be seen to be supporting the one liberation movement and not the other.

A committee consisting of the following was set up.

- (1) Danny Iyer - Harare City Councillor and Chairman of the Committee
- (2) Kate Ranushu - Secretary
- (3) Daniel lasiye - Harare Chamber of Commerce
- (4) Alina Patel - Businesswoman
- (5) Stan Rigging - Network Public Relations - member

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Please see attached accompanying statement of what funds were collected and how they were used.

Our Dinner Dance was not that successful. The 430 people Sipho is talking about was our target. In fact we made reservations for 450 people hoping to fill the hall. Had this been the case we would have realised the \$64.000 he is talking about. Only about 250 people turned up, 20 of whom were our students who were performing as the ABC choir. These students did not pay and were served with food and liquor to thank them for their performance.

There were two reasons for our failure to reach the target. One is the fact that the event was organised around Easter holidays when many people were not available in Harare. (2) The committee had very little time to prepare. a

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Please note that Sipho was present at this function, it is a wonder therefore that he comes up with all the figures which he claims are accurate.

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Sipho is surprised that he did not find huge amounts deposited in the account which he opened. Let me also bring your attention to fact that I was not a signatory to the ,account and could therefore not withdraw any money apart from seeking4dmcooperation of the two signatories who were nenbers of the AIC.

Let re explain how payment and banking was done. As soon as the noney was counted. we decided to pay out what we owned accruing fro: the preparations e.g the hotel's 315 738.00 was paid directly and not banked first. So it was the case with the bands etc. only the balance was taken to the bank.

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Sipho accuses ne of diverting sane cheques received to what he reffers to as secret accounts. Perhaps I should in a way plead guilty to this accusation. Yes we did divert sore cheques to another account and this can also be explained. Our office as was usually the case never had noney to support any operation we embarked upon. Each tine we would be told by the treasure's office in Harare that there were no funds. This was despite the fact that we knew that the were scores of people paying rent for the ARC houses that were left behind by all the structures and that at the saletile a number of ABC cars were being sold to different people. All the money we were told was to be used as noney to pay for the transfer of houses in the AIC's nane. This houses presumably would later on be sold. we knew there was no way in which we would get money from Sipho particularly feeling as he did that he is being left out.

The Sheraton Hotel needed a deposit of five thousand as paynent before the event. we then requested this amount iron the education account and paid it back using the cheques we had received. These cheques were diverted to the education account.

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I vow that I did not embezzle any funds. I an sure that Sipho also knows this. The ARC sold as a car worth Z12 000.00, it took me fron larch to December to pay this, surely this would not have been the case if I had thousands hidden away somewhere. Even by his own calculations, if I had taken this noney. this would amount to some thirty or so Zinababwean dollars (this equals about R15 000)

Surely I would have made all efforts to pay the money rather than allow the situation to develop to what it is now, taking the fact that I would have had from Hhrch to lbvenber to do so.

Despite the fact that the occasion did not raise enough funds, it raised a lot of publicity for the ARC. The media covered it the following day. Our quest of honour Cde B. lseekela and Hinieter Hhtasa were quoted extensively. I would venture to say it encouraged the South African community in Zimbabwe to participate in the election.

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This is to confirm that upon requested by the MC Chief Rep. Mr Jeremiah Kingsley H&mbolo a. solidarity Committee was formed to organise a mud raising dinner dance.

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The Committee consisted of the following people:

1) 0111-. Dam Meyer Harare City Councillor, Deputy President (Chnirmn) of 2-800 and Businessman

2) Kate Ramshu I Secretimy

3) Daniel Masiye Harare'phamber of Comerce

h) Aminn Patel Businegssunman ,

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5) Stan Higgins Network Public Relations

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