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11 August 2014

Honourable Ms Joyce Moloi-Moropa
Member of Parliament
Chairperson, Portfolio Committee on Communications
Third Floor
90 Plein Street
Cape Town
8001

Re: Status and update letter on all matters relating to recent negative press reports about the qualification(s) of Ms. Zandile Ellen Tshabalala

I am certain that your office will have noted the recent negative press reports around the issue of my academic qualification(s), which reports were initiated through an article that was published in the City Press of the 13th July 2014.

Further to these unfortunate events, I would appreciate to be afforded the time and opportunity till the 31st July 2014 or soon thereafter to take all appropriate and necessary steps, available to me in law, to protect and redeem my reputation due to the damage that has been visited upon my dignity as a result of actions that were taken by the parties involved in the genesis of the initial press report.

I would also like to take this opportunity to shed some light on actions that I have taken to date and to provide a high level personal perspective on the matter above. I wish to inform your office that I have engaged the services of a legal adviser (or counsel) to:

1. To conduct an investigation with the academic institution involved in respect of the basis of their purported letter to the City Press whose contents were published without my consent on the 13th July 2014.
2. To further investigate the status of the student records of this academic institution, to assess what is contained in them in relation to my academic relationship with this institution and to further clarify what the records say or reveal about the status of my academic credentials.
3. To enlighten me of the legal recourse(s) that might be available and if still necessary to advise me of any appropriate steps that may be required to assist me to protect my reputation and ultimately my dignity and, to assist in the protection of the reputation of institutions which have (or might have had) a relationship with me.

In this regard my legal counsel has informed me that they have already engaged the academic institution in question and I am further informed that the same institution has committed to timeously provide all the necessary answers to my concerns and questions.

Given the urgency of this matter I have instructed my legal counsel to impress upon all parties involved in this matter to expedite its resolution and to ensure that it is addressed within three weeks since the article was published. However, UNISA has requested for an additional 14 days extension (beginning on 08 August 2014).

I also wish to give you comfort that I am painfully aware of the fact that this matter has serious implications and that it has had a serious negative impact on the reputation of all organisations that I serve on or where I have previously served. I have therefore committed myself to ensure that this matter is cleared soonest, and that it is resolved amicably.

Given the facts currently available to me, I am convinced that the response of the academic institution (referred to herein) will provide the necessary information required to clear my name from the above mentioned City Press report and all its import.

I will provide a more detailed status report as promised, which is likely to be on the 19th August or soon thereafter.

Yours faithfully,


MS Z E TSHABALALA
CHAIRMAN SABC BOARD