

***B de L Figaji
118 Upper Kenridge Ave
Durbanville Hills
7550***

30 June 2020

David Maynier
MEC of Finance and Economic Opportunities
Western Cape Government

CC: Alan Winde, Premier of the Western Cape Government

Dear MEC Maynier

POSITION AS CHAIR OF WESGRO

As indicated at our meeting on 29th June 2020, I hereby tender my resignation from the Board of Wesgro effective at midnight on 30th June 2020. This date coincides with the original date that you wanted to terminate my term as board member and chairperson of the board.

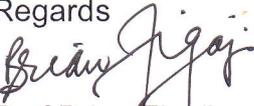
Since the Board's unanimous decision on the salary increase for the Wesgro CEO on the 21st February 2020, you have - through meetings with me and letters to the Wesgro Board - tried to force the Board to change its decision. You also obtained a legal opinion about the Board's right to make such a decision. We provided you with all the information that the Board used to arrive at the salary proposal, as well as the history and performance of Wesgro as supporting evidence. However, none of this really mattered since you believed that the salary increase was inappropriate and that you would get it changed. When this did not happen, your next approach was to not renew the board terms of the board members you see as standing in your way. And since I am at the head of this list, the inevitable happened. I wish to confirm that it is your prerogative to not renew a board member's term. However, this is not simply about a non-renewal of board members' terms, rather it is about the desire to control the Board and to make them compliant. We indicated to you at our first discussion on the 3rd March 2020, that we valued the independence of the Board and that we wanted to ensure the continuance of the Board's

ability to act independently, yet within legislative compliance. Your response was in agreement to this, yet you sent us back time after time to “change our decision” regarding the CEO’s salary. At no point in your relentless questioning on process and content did you endeavour to respond to the Board in the manner of a responsible leader demonstrating a willingness to engage and to resolve the issue at hand.

Based on my individual belief system I try to manage myself in a principled manner at all times, I am not available to be manipulated nor coerced into compliance.

I have called a special Board meeting for later today so that I can inform the Board of the recent events and indicate to them that the new “regime” for the Wesgro Board is compliance to the will of the MEC. I am convinced that this does not bode well for Wesgro, and before long it too will be operating with mediocrity as the measure. Furthermore, it is political interference in so many of South Africa’s institutions that has brought them low, and it is a shock to see this happening in the Western Cape. Again, I wish to restate that mediocrity is the inevitable outcome.

I truly regret that you are prepared to sacrifice Wesgro on the altar of political expediency in this manner.

Regards

Prof Brian Figaji