

Seek, Find, Strike



**CAPE TOWN PARLIAMENTARY FIRE
02 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**PRESENTATION BY THE NATIONAL HEAD OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME
INVESTIGATION:
(DR/ADV) SG LEBEYA (SOEG)**



INTRODUCTION

- On 2 January 2022 members of the South African Police Service, stationed at Parliament in Cape Town saw that smoke was coming from the Old Assembly building of Parliament.
- Upon further investigation the members realised that the Old Assembly building was on fire.
- The Fire Brigade from Cape Town was immediately notified.
- The members on the scene of the fire then saw an unknown African male, who was busy climbing through a window from inside the Old Assembly to the outside. Members of the Police confronted the said African male and saw that he was in possession of bags containing property which seemed to be coming from inside Parliament. The African male was arrested and detained at Cape Town Central SAPS on preliminary charges of **housebreaking, theft and arson**. The property found in the possession of the suspect was handed in police custody at Cape Town Central SAPS.
- The suspect was identified as being **Mr Zandile Christmas Mafe**, a 49 year old male residing in Khayelitsha.

PROGRESS ON THE INVESTIGATION

- The crime scene was officially handed over to the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation on 2 January 2022 and an investigating officer from the Section Crimes Against the State was appointed.
- During the interview, Mr Mafe, made certain statements regarding the reasons for causing the fire which will be part of evidence in court.
- Several allegations were made regarding Mr Mafe during the investigation.
- Such allegations include that the **South African Police Service arrested the wrong person** and that he was an innocent homeless person who was sleeping outside Parliament.
- Photos of Mr. Mafe laying on the ground were widely spread on Social media.

POINTING OUT AND CONFESSION

- The investigating officer appointed an independent officer to do the pointing out, which has since been conducted.
 - The Provincial Anti Corruption Unit recorded the confession of Mr Mafe.
 - Mr Mafe was officially charged and made his first court appearance in Cape Town District court on the **4th January 2022**. The case was then postponed to the 11th January 2022, for bail particulars.
 - Mr Mafe was detained at Pollsmoor prison.
 - Pointing out and confession will form part of evidence in court.
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ANALYSIS OF THE VIDEO FOOTAGE

- During the investigation **more than 30 hours of video footage** was gathered, showing Mr. Mafe moving around in Parliament.
- The video footage showing the activities relating to the fire will form part of evidence.



CONCLUSION

- The investigation in the said matter has been completed.
- The statement of Captain Nigrini, relating to the downloading of video footage at Parliament, was obtained and filed
- The final report, regarding the structural damages to Parliament buildings, were obtained from the Department of Public Works and filed in the case docket.
- The POCDATARA certificate was issued by the NDPP and the indictment was served on the accused on 2022/06/09.
- The matter has been postponed to **2022/11/04** for pre-trial purposes in the Western Cape High court as the accused refused to appear In court on the 12th August 2022. He had embarked on a hunger strike during the last week prior to his court appearance.
- The accused lost his appeal application against the ruling of the Western Cape Regional court not to grant him bail. The **accused is currently in custody** at Pollsmoor.



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Thank you