

# Senzo Mchunu opens up about relationship with his former PA

Luthuli House has been made aware

By **Ngwako Malatji**

Public Service and Administration Minister Senzo Mchunu has complained to his comrades at Luthuli House that the woman who accused him of sexual harassment had sent him inappropriate text messages.

He also complained that the woman, who was his personal assistant when he worked at ANC headquarters at Luthuli House, has also blackmailed him into giving her a job as his chief of staff when he was deployed to his ministerial position after the 2019 general elections.

Mchunu made these allegations in a letter, which was leaked to us by his sympathisers, responding to a complaint of sexual harassment and unfair dismissal filed against him by the woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons.

In the letter, which Sunday World has seen, Mchunu said he had convened a meeting with human resources to discuss the woman's conduct, but she did not attend as she had a case in court. He said he had asked for the meeting to explain why he no longer wanted to work with the woman.

"I then spoke about improper text messages she regularly sent to me. I received these messages, but I explained that



**Senzo Mchunu denies he sexually harassed his former personal assistant.** / Gallo Images

I regard them as improper and that I never answered any of them verbally, in writing or otherwise. This was done to ignore her and to discourage this trend. There were quite a number of texts [and I still have them] and they came over a period of time. I'm now shocked to learn that they were a supposed 'response'," he said in the letter.

Mchunu further said that the woman insisted on travelling with him on election campaign trips when she was supposed to be office bound.

"I gave [her a] brief explanation that I generally didn't like to go with a PA on these trips because my view was that she would not necessarily have any real role and needed to be office-based," he stated in the letter.

He also said he no longer wanted to work with her because of her work ethic, adding she had frequently failed to answer his calls, choosing to communicate with him via WhatsApp.

"I explained the difficulty of communicating via delayed return calls on landline and subse-

quent dependence on WhatsApp as a way of doing work between the principal and the personal assistant. I even added that it was always a puzzle to see her picking up calls from other people and lack of coherent explanation on this throughout the period of work."

Mchunu said that between June 3 and June 4 2019, the woman had sent him messages blackmailing him into giving her a cushy job in his department. The messages, which were attached to the letter, read in part:

"We had a discussion and a clear understanding upfront last year about you going to cabinet and the position of chief of staff being afforded to me. I have earned it and I hold you to that.

"We are a great team and you know it. Everyone who has worked with us this past year also knows it. There is no legal or ethical basis for what you are do-

ing. I will not hesitate to go public if you insist on harming my reputation and standing.

"Please reconsider your position and I'm available to discuss a solution with you. Thank you."

The letter continues: "Secondly, it would be best to receive a warm welcome from you personally. Any display of the cold and callous attitude that you last showed will not be good. It is also advisable that you ask the DG [director-general] to arrange appointments for the rest of this week whereby I'm introduced to the senior officials at the office."

The woman's sexual harassment complaint, in which she alleged that Mchunu kissed and touched her inappropriately, was dismissed by the party's disciplinary committee. It later settled out of court where she was paid undisclosed wages of lucre. Both Mchunu and the woman were not available for comment at the time of going to print.

**I received these messages, but I explained that I regard them as improper**

## Students 'at risk of exclusion'

Covid dries up funding avenues

By **Bongani Mdakane**

A crisis is looming at universities as students are up in arms over their future.

This comes after it emerged that thousands of students at top universities in the country are facing financial exclusion due to lack of funding.

Sunday World has learnt that due to financial woes caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, many students who relied on student loans and family members are at their wits' end due to job losses.

"At Wits University, there are 8 124 students who are at risk of financial exclusion," said Wits University SRC president Mpendulo Mfeka.

Wits has asked students who owe more than R10 000 to pay a 50% to register.

SRC deputy president at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Nondumiso Zwane said they have been engaging the university on the current issues affecting students. "Unfortunately, the management seem to not care about the challenges because ... we have had more than four meetings where they have made it clear they do not want to change their stance".

Ishmael Mnisi, the spokesperson for the Department of Higher Education, said: "Students who are currently funded by NSFAS, who continue to meet funding and study eligibility requirements, will continue being funded."

"NSFAS is of the view that enough time was given to students to apply for 2021 funding. Students who missed this window are encouraged to apply for financial assistance in the next cycle," said Sibongile Mncwabe, the NSFAS chief corporate services officer.



**Greater Letaba Municipality invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for nominations in the following positions:**

### AUDIT COMMITTEE (5 x positions)

**REQUIREMENTS:** A post graduate degree or equivalent in Commerce, Auditing, Risk Management, Information Technology, Public Administration, Engineering and Law. Proven experience in serving as an audit committee member in a local government institution will be an added advantage. Knowledge and understanding of local government legislation. Excellent communication (verbal and written), report writing and ICT skills.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:** Advice council, political office bearers, the accounting officer and the management staff of the municipality on matters relating to the following: • Internal Audit • Internal Financial controls • Accounting Policies • Risk Management • Adequacy, reliability and accuracy of financial reporting and information • Performance Evaluation • Corporate Governance; Information Communication Technology (ICT) • Compliance with relevant Legislation • Any other issues referred to by the Municipality • Examine and Review the Annual Financial Statements before final approval • Respond to the Council on any issues raised by the AGSA • Reporting to Council on a quarterly basis

### ICT STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

**REQUIREMENTS:** Degree in Computer Science or equivalent • Professional qualification / certification in either ITIL/Cobit5/ PMBoK/Prince2/Governance of ICT/ICT Security. Minimum of 3 years' experience in ICT Management/Audit/Advisory services in ICT governance, ICT Strategy, security management, ICT Incident management, and ICT performance management.

**KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:** • Advise the Accounting Officer, and Senior Management of the Municipality on following matters: • CT governance • CT security management • ICT policies • ICT Incident management • ICT performance management • Effective governance Compliance with applicable CT and other legislation • Conformance to CT Standards and Good Practices • Any other issues referred to It by the Municipality • Provide oversight role and advice the Accounting Officer on ICT Corporate Governance • Respond to the Accounting Officer on any Issues raised by the Auditor-General in the audit report • Make recommendations on ICT-related projects • Review and approve CT project Implementation plans and project management documents such as risk management, information security and policies.

### RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

**REQUIREMENTS:** A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree / Post-Graduate Degree in Risk Management, Auditing or Accounting. The ideal candidate should have a minimum of 3 years' management experience in Risk Management, Auditing/ Advisory services / Financial, Anti-Fraud and Corruption in the public / local government service. The candidate must have excellent knowledge of the Risk Management, Corporate Governance, Municipal Finance Management Act and Treasury Regulations, Enterprise Wide Risk Management (EWRM), ISO 31000 Standard, COSO model and Public Sector Risk Management Framework.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** The primary objective of the Risk Management Committee is to assist the Accounting Officer to discharge of his duties in respect of risk management with an ultimate aim of achieving the municipal objectives. The incumbent will perform the following: Provide oversight on the review and monitoring the implementation of risk management framework, policy, charter and strategy within the municipal. Provide guidance on integration of risk management into planning, monitoring and reporting processes. Lead the Committee in conducting its activities in terms of the Public Sector Risk Management Framework, MFMA, Risk Committee Charter and King IV Report on Corporate Governance. Provide proper and timely reports to the Accounting Officer on the state of risk management

**TERMS OF OFFICE AND REMUNERATION:** The term of office of the nominated members shall be 3 years and be remunerated at rates commensurate with the National Treasury tariffs and/or rates approved by council.

Greater Letaba Municipality is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. It is our intention to promote representation (race, gender and disability). The municipality reserves the right not to fill any of the advertised position(s). Errors and Omissions excluded. Interested individuals may send an application letter accompanied Curriculum Vitae and certified copies of ID and qualifications. Short listed candidates may be required to produce original copies of qualifications.

When you apply for this post, you give the municipality consent to process your personal information. The successful candidate will be subjected to security screening and qualification verification. Correspondences will only be entered into with short listed candidates. Applicants will be penalized for canvassing

**Please forward all applications to:** The Acting Municipal Manager, Greater Letaba Municipality, P.O. Box 36, Modjadjiskloof. 0835, or applications may be hand delivered at the Municipal Offices, MM's Office no. B1. Civic Centre, Botha Street, Modjadjiskloof and no faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted.

**Enquiries: Mr Mokhufi E. / Ms Smit E @ 015 309 9246/7/8**

**Closing date: 19th March 2021**

**ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER: Dr LETSOALO M.B**