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VEAREY SMEAR CAMPAIGN, SAYS ANC

Plato mum on Krejcir 'informant'

Quinton Mtyala

COMMUNITY Safety MEC Dan Plato will not say how he got introduced to an "informant" who, in an affidavit, claims he wanted to spill the beans on his dealings with the likes of Radovan Krejcir and Glen Agliotti, who owed him R749 000.

Plato has been accused by the ANC of masterminding a smear campaign against deputy provincial police commissioner Jeremy Vearey. A former Umkhonto we Sizwe guerrilla, Vearey has been open about his support for the ANC.

Now Plato says the surfacing of the affidavit from Pierre Theron was part of a plot by the ANC to destabilise the DA-controlled provincial government.

Theron claims he met Plato for the first time in June 2012 at the Dros restaurant in Stellenbosch, claiming he was a member of a crime syndicate involved in various crimes, including drugs, assassinations, human trafficking, abalone smuggling, prostitution and the illegal trade in rhino horn.

The 61-year-old George resident claimed, in an affidavit in 2013, that the syndicate had

police officials and those working in the Justice Department in their pocket.

The Hawks are investigating Theron's claims and would not comment yesterday.

In a later affidavit, from October 2015, Theron claimed Krejcir had paid deputy provincial police commissioner Jeremy Vearey a total of R6 million without explaining what these payments were for. According to the earlier affidavit, Plato had during their second and third meeting asked Theron to collect information about top police officers and politicians.

Theron claims he handed Plato a "3cm-thick file" which contained information about the crime syndicate to which he belonged and its activities. In exchange Plato promised "a large amount of money" by the end of October 2012. This money never materialised, according to Theron's affidavit.

Among Theron's claims is that he tipped off Plato about a large drug haul coming through Cape Town International Airport. The information was forwarded to then provincial commissioner Arno Lamoer by Plato and when Theron demanded payment, he was told he would be unmasked as an informant.



PIERRE THERON

Theron claims he sent numerous SMSes to Plato's personal cellphone, threatening to go to the police and the media over the mishandling of information he had passed on. "I had planned to report my problems with Dan Plato, who wouldn't respond to my text messages, to Premier (Helen) Zille, the state president, local and international media, and my lawyers."

Prior to that Plato had initially paid Theron R1 500 for a cellphone during their first meeting in June 2012, and subsequently deposited R4 000 on

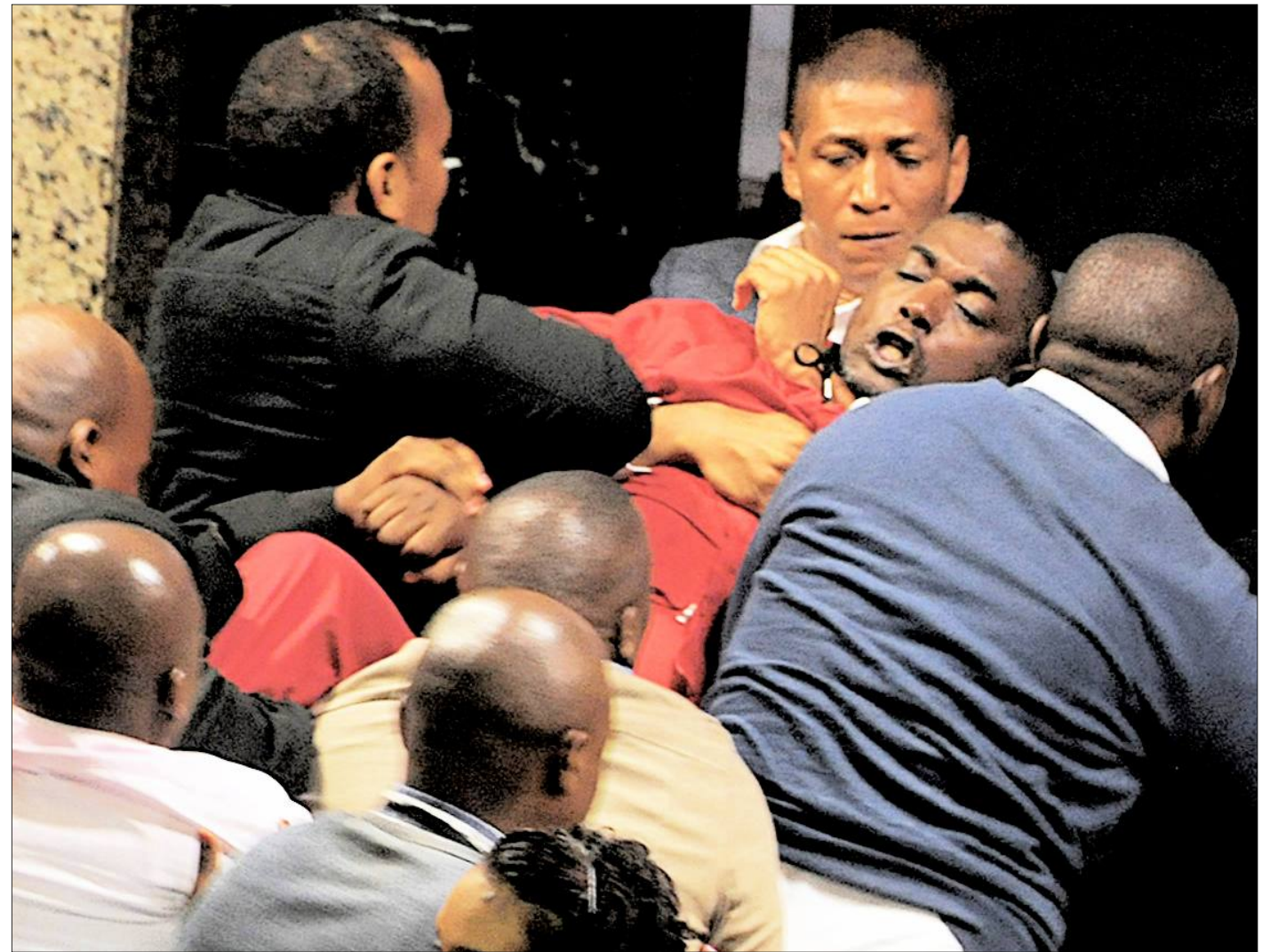
July 11; R10 000 on July 17; R600 on October 2; R1 000 on October 8; R1 000 on October 15; R2 500 on October 29; R1 000 on November 1; R400 on December 24; and R400 on January 8, 2013 into his Nedbank account.

Asked about the payments, Plato would not say what they were for; but earlier told Die Burger these were to cover Theron's medical expenses "because he was ill". He accused the Western Cape ANC of trying to destabilise the province through empty threats and hollow allegations.

"It is of utmost importance that the Hawks investigation into the affidavits continues without interference from any police official, political party or media representative," said Plato.

"I continue to honour the commitment made to the police minister and the national police commissioner to refrain from further media statements on the contents of the allegations and enable the Hawks to complete their investigation."

He said provincial police commissioner Khombinkosi Julia had inherited a police service where SAPS officers' involvement with criminal activities had gone unchecked. quinton.mtyala@inl.co.za



TENSE: Scenes from the National Assembly during the presidential budget vote. The EFF objected to the president taking the podium, and were forcibly removed after refusing to leave. Picture: JEFFREY ABRAHAMS

EFF removed as chaos descends on House

Siyabonga Mkhwanazi

PARLIAMENT degenerated into chaos once again when opposition parties tried to block President Jacob Zuma from addressing the House, labelling him an accused criminal who stole millions from taxpayers.

Later in the debate on the Presidency's budget vote yesterday, Deputy Speaker Lechesa Tsenoli forced DA leader Mmusi Maimane to withdraw his remarks that Zuma was a thief.

On several occasions Maimane referred to Zuma as accused number one and a criminal. This was after security officers had forcefully

ejected EFF MPs who caused chaos, drowning Speaker Baleka Mbete's attempts at restoring order and calling for Zuma to go.

EFF MPs were denying Zuma the chance to address Parliament after findings of the Constitutional Court and the high court in Pretoria last week. The latter court found that then acting head of the National Prosecuting Authority Mokotedi Mpshe acted irrationally when he dropped charges of corruption against Zuma before the 2009 elections.

ANC MP Celiwe Madlopha said it was an insult to call Zuma a criminal when no court has made findings against him. "This president

'If Mr Zuma has nothing to hide, he won't appeal the judgment'

has not been found guilty of corruption by any court, unlike Dianne Kohler Barnard of the DA, found guilty by her own party to be racist."

Maimane said: "If Mr Zuma has nothing to hide, he will not appeal the judgment. He will have what he has always wanted, his day in court." But ANC MPs were up in

arms over Maimane's insistence on calling Zuma a thief.

ANC chief whip Jackson Mthembu also defended Zuma several times. He said there was not a shred of evidence Zuma had benefited from the arms deal.

But DA MPs were unrelenting. Even IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's call to respect Zuma fell on deaf ears. He said he would never call an elderly person a thief. This was aimed at Maimane.

Pieter Groenewald, of the Freedom Front Plus, said claims Zuma did not know about upgrades at Nkandla was not correct. "I want to inform you, Mr President, that you are not ill-informed."

By Ayanda Dlodlo

SOUTH AFRICA welcomes to its shores this Africa Month a network of over 600 reformers from across the continent and globe committed to entrenching sustainable development in the continent through the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

The OGP an international voluntary effort to improve government performance and encourage civic participation provides a platform for reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens.

The work of the OGP is premised on the grand challenges of improving public service, increasing public integrity, more effectively managing public resources, creating safer communities and increasing corporate accountability.

As part of the 2016 Africa Regional Meeting hosted under the theme "Open Government for Sustainable Development in Africa", the continent will engage on how the Open Government Partnership can support efforts aimed at implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since the year 2016 marks the beginning of the implementation phase for the SDGs, it is imperative to ensure that a conversation, platforms and stakeholder engagements are initiated aimed at finding a multifaceted and multi-stakeholder approach towards ensuring that various participants in the international system and development community play their role in promoting the implementation of the SDGs.

This regional conference is an integral part of the work of the Open Government Partnership, providing a platform to set an African agenda

Advancing Africa's Developmental Goals through the Open Government Partnership

and share strategies for deepening best practices and lessons learnt to move Africa forward.

As we deliberate on the concept of a sustainable development for Africa and to ensure we thrive on this agenda, we are necessitated to reflect on the successes and shortcomings of past work that has sought to place Africa on a positive developmental path, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The African Union's High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows recently noted that many of our African countries did not achieve their Millennium Development Goals because of insufficient capital to finance required actions, with the panel estimating that the continent loses over \$50-billion through illicit financial outflows annually.

For the continent to meet developmental challenges, huge volumes of capital are required and these are not met as capital which should be retained within the continent is exported.

The pivotal issue of ending corruption and illicit financial flows in Africa will therefore be explored, with focus on "The Fair Play Standards" – a set of transparency principles that African countries can commit to through their OGP action plans to help fight corruption, illicit financial flows, money laundering and to improve in open governance.

In keeping with the developmental theme, the regional conference will also focus on the role of youth in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The simple fact that there are over 1.8 billion young people in the world right now calls for their representation and inclusion in global decision-making processes.

Against this backdrop, it is crucial that more young people are introduced to OGP processes.

This could entail, commitments to formalise youth leadership in National Action Plans, making sure the youth are part of network of reformers, or focusing on the issues and not



Africa Regional Conference

just processes for participation.

To ensure that citizens across the continent have better access to information about laws under consideration and opportunities to engage in the policy-making processes, there is a need for greater openness of the legislative processes.

The act of opening up the legislature is essential for any democracy, and is crucial to its proper function.

The session on engaging legislatures and developing strong legislative commitments responds to the role of the legislature as the

voice of the people and accountable to the people.

In a South African context, the importance of the public in the work of Parliament is emphasised by the fact that our Constitution instructs Parliament to facilitate public participation in the law-making process and to take reasonable measures for public access to its committee meetings and sittings of the House.

This is premised on Parliament's role to represent the people and ensure government by the people under the Constitution, an approach



Ayanda Dlodlo, Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration.

holders involved in the programme were active drivers of the process and owners of its end-product.

South Africa's 3rd Country Action Plan is innovative and progressive in that it seeks to link the Open Government Partnership and Sustainable Development Goals in some of its commitments.

Commitment five on Access to Justice which has a specific focus on the institutionalisation of community advice offices as part of a wider justice network establishes the linkage between South Africa's action plan, the Open Government Partnership Declaration and the broader SDGs as it specifically relates to Goal 16.

This commitment sponsored by the National Alliance for the Development of Community Advice Offices, is the first civil society led commitment in South Africa's action plans.

As government, we are encouraged by this commitment from civil society as it gives affirmation that we are equal partners in the processes of the Open Government Partnership and more so in putting in the required work to make our nation work.

Our deliberations over the coming days will provide for peer learning and the sharing of experiences. This is in line with our resolve to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive, and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all.

In unity as the continent of Africa, we embark on a collective journey for prosperity through the Open Government Partnership, pledging that no one will be left behind.

(Ms Ayanda Dlodlo is a Member of Parliament, Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration and the Presidential Envoy to the Open Government Partnership).