

**THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS
REGARDING EFFORTS OR ATTEMPTS TO STOP THE INVESTIGATION OR
PROSECUTION OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION CASES
(TRC CASES INQUIRY)**

HELD AT:

Sci-Bono Discovery Centre, Corner of Miriam Makeba & Helen Joseph Street
Newtown, Johannesburg

BEFORE:

COMMISSIONERS:

The Honourable Ms Justice Sisi Khampepe (Judge Ret.) – Chairperson
The Honourable Mr Justice Frans Diale Kgomo (Judge President Ret.)
Adv Andrea Gabriel (SC)

EVIDENCE LEADERS:

Adv Ishmael Semanya (SC)
Adv Vas Soni (SC)
Adv Fana Nalane (SC)
Adv Nompumelelo Seme
Ms Baitseng Rangata

REPRESENTATIVES

Adv Motlalepule Rantho (for SAPS)
Adv Ebenezer Propy (for SAPS)
Adv Irene Dikgale (for SAPS)
Adv Anisa Kessery-DOJ Representative
Adv Matseleng Lekoane (DOJ representative)
Adv D Pillay – The Calata Group
Mr Jos Venter – The Calata Group
Mr Sipho Tlhaole – The Calata Group
Adv Irene de Vos for President Cyril Ramaphosa
Adv B Lukhele-NPA Representative

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DAY 77

PAGES 1 – 30



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PROCEEDINGS ON 18 AUGUST 2026

CHAIRPERSON: Mr Semenya, good morning to you all.

ADV SEMENYA: Morning, Chair, we are receiving the evidence of Ms Coetzee this morning.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

ADV SEMENYA: I believe Ms Rantho will be leading evidence.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Ms Rantho, you confirm that?

ADV RANTHO: I do confirm, Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Is it Colonel Coetzee?

10 ADV RANTHO: Lieutenant Colonel.

CHAIRPERSON: Lieutenant Colonel.

ADV RANTHO: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON: Lieutenant Colonel Coetzee, good morning.

MS COETZEE: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes, are you going to give your evidence under oath or affirmation?

MS COETZEE: Under oath, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: Do you swear that the evidence you will give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? If so, raise your
20 right hand and say, so help me God.

MS COETZEE: So help me God.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL VINETTE COETZEE

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Ms Rantho?

ADV RANTHO: Thank you, Chairperson. Good morning, colonel.

MS COETZEE: Morning, counsel.

ADV RANTHO: In front of you there is an affidavit deposed to by Vinette Coetzee. Am I right?

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: Can you confirm that it is your affidavit?

MS COETZEE: I confirm.

ADV RANTHO: You inform the commission in paragraph 1 that you came before the commission in the capacity of retired member of the South African Police Service. Is that correct?

MS COETZEE: That is correct, Chair.

10 ADV RANTHO: And you also inform the commission that at the time when you retired you held the rank of lieutenant colonel and stationed at Crimes Against the State, in short CATS.

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: And this is a unit based at head office?

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you very much. You also confirm that the contents of this affidavit are yours or you are familiar with it?

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

20 ADV RANTHO: Thank you very much. In paragraph 3 you stated that you came before this commission voluntarily to come and assist the commission, is that not so?

MS COETZEE: That is correct, Chair.

ADV RANTHO: Just to confirm that you were never issued with any notice by the commission for you to come before the commission?

MS COETZEE: I confirm that I did not receive a notice.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you very much. Before we get into the details of the kind of assistance you want to render to the commission, may I just take you to paragraph 5, the heading there is 'educational background and career history'. From paragraph 5 up to paragraph 11 you stated or you explained to the commission what your position was and your career progression in the SAPS. You confirm that?

MS COETZEE: I confirm that.

ADV RANTHO: Can you just briefly inform the commission when you joined the police and what have you been doing during your
10 employment with the SAPS?

MS COETZEE: Commissioners, in short I joined the SAPS as a constable, student constable in 1984. Then I was stationed at Pretoria North Station from June 1994 until November 1994. I received my training at the Police College and then I was sent to Internal Security head office where I was a constable and started my career in the police.

From 1991 to 1994 I was a Warrant Officer and I was working at Crime Intelligence Services, dealing mainly with administration and also investigations pertaining to security legislation, as well as suspicious activities of groups or members against the security of the state.

20 From 1997 to 2006 I was here then part of Serious and Violent Crime, the whole unit moved to Serious and Violent Crime because we were an operational office. So from there on I was part of SVC.

In 2001 I was promoted to superintendent and my duties there as well is dealing with enquiries, dealing with administrative issues and I was also at a certain time I was acting commander for the personnel

services at Serious and Violent Crime and also for CAT, Crimes Against the State.

From 2006 to 2010 there was a restructuring in 2006 and then I was placed at the Pretoria Central Detectives for a short while, but because of the investigation of the Boeremag, I was temporary placed back at the Hawks to assist the investigating officer at that court, at the high court in Pretoria.

So from thereon I was engaged there until 2013 when the trial, when those people were convicted and sentenced and then I was
10 placed back into the Hawks environment as investigator and administrator dealing with various tasks at the Hawks.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you, colonel. In paragraph 11, as you explained that when the Boeremag trial was concluded, you returned to your position and one of the duties that you performed related to the management of the SAPS13 register. You confirm that?

MS COETZEE: I can confirm that, Commissioners. I was the person that was involved in SAP13; it entails registering of all exhibits into that register and for safekeeping and assisting the investigators with their duties.

20 ADV RANTHO: Okay, maybe just to explain what is SAP13?

MS COETZEE: The SAP13 is a register that is kept, is normally at the police station where exhibits in a certain case is entered, like for instance cell phones, laptops, evidential matter is then placed and registered under a unique number in that register. And when the case goes to trial or there is a disposal, you use that register and it is

managed by a national instruction on how to dispose of, how to store and everything related to exhibits.

ADV RANTHO: And this would be exhibits that have been used in the commission of crime?

MS COETZEE: Yes, that is correct.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you. Now we can proceed to the next item, involvement in the TRC cases and you start off in paragraph 12 by informing the commission that:

10 “On 24 March 2004, I assisted with the administrative process during the transfer of dockets and files from the office of the National Prosecuting Authority to the SAPS. The said documents emanated from the TRC process and were handled by Senior Superintendent H Britz and Director F Nel who had previously been seconded to the NPA to assist with the TRC investigations.”

You confirm that?

MS COETZEE: I confirm that, Chair.

ADV RANTHO: In paragraph 13 you state as follows:

20 “My involvement in the transfer of the documents was pursuant to an instruction I received from Colonel Louis Bester who was my commander at the time, to assist with the logistical arrangements associated with the movement of the offices of Senior Superintendent Britz and Director Nel. This

resulted in documents in possession of Senior Superintendent Britz and Director Nel being moved from the NPA's office at Church Square, Pretoria to the 8th floor of Detective Services at the SAPS Head Office at Wachthuis Building, Pretoria.”

And you further state that your involvement in the movement of Senior Superintendent Britz and Director Nel's offices was accordingly recorded in your diary and you attached a copy of the said diary as VC1 to your affidavit. You confirm that?

10 MS COETZEE: I confirm that, Chair.

ADV RANTHO: Okay. Perhaps if you may just, briefly just to elaborate more in terms of what happened when you received the instruction, the movement, what did that movement entail?

MS COETZEE: Chair, the movement entailed that I had, as a senior member I took some of my members, we had to, we went to the offices on Church Square and we removed all the boxes. All those boxes was dockets and also documents that were stored in a safe, where Senior Superintendent Brits and Director Frik Nel was sitting. So all those boxes we had to remove from the square to the 8th floor at Detective
20 Service. So we had, it is not in my statement, we had two or three vehicles to remove all those boxes, it was quite a lot that we had to move.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you, colonel. Paragraph 14 you stated as follows:

“I then developed a register listing all cases that

were transferred from the NPA to Wachthuis 8th floor
to ensure proper record keeping on the part of
SAPS.”

And then to your affidavit you annexed a copy of the list of dockets that
were entered in the register and then that is attached to your affidavit
and marked EXHIBIT VC2. Do you confirm that?

MS COETZEE: I confirm that, Chair.

ADV RANTHO: And then perhaps if we may, I may take you to VC2.
That appears on page 11 of your affidavit, paginated page 11. Sorry,
10 VC2 would be on page...

CHAIRPERSON: 12.

ADV RANTHO: 12, my apologies.

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: You have it? You confirm that is the list that the register
that you are referring to?

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: And then if I may then just ask, there is some
handwritten notes on top of that document, the one that starts with
‘ANC’ there, do you see that?

20 MS COETZEE: Yes, Commissioner.

ADV RANTHO: Whose handwriting is that?

MS COETZEE: This is the handwriting of Senior Superintendent Brits.

ADV RANTHO: Okay, and perhaps if you may just read into the record,
if you can, as to what is written on that document?

MS COETZEE: It is written

“ANC ondersoek dossier DOV PV ondersoek span.”

ADV RANTHO: Are you able to translate just... [intervenes]

MS COETZEE: It says that it is ANC investigations dockets at the NPA offices is the investigation team.

ADV RANTHO: Okay. And then just underneath there is a number there, 395.

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: What, did you understand what the 395 meant?

10 MS COETZEE: The 395 that is written there is the dockets that I moved from the NPA offices to the 8th floor at detective services.

ADV RANTHO: So it refers to the number of dockets that were... [intervenes]

MS COETZEE: That was the number of dockets.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you, colonel. Let us proceed to paragraph 15 wherein you stated that:

20 “With the initial batch of documents transferred from the NPA to Wachthuis as instructed by Colonel Bester, a separate audited list was derived from about 10 boxes. I drafted an index for each box to ensure that they were numbered and sealed as advised by Colonel Bester. The status of classification for the purpose of compliance with Minimum Information Security Standards (“the MISS document”) of the list had not been verified at the

time of deposing to this affidavit but same can be attended to should the Commission require of me to do so.”

You confirm that is the contents?

MS COETZEE: I confirm.

ADV RANTHO: Okay, perhaps if I may just ask you to elaborate more in terms of upon receipt of that, the audit, that process as to how did you go about that?

MS COETZEE: Chair, Commissioners, I was instructed to do an audit
10 of those boxes, it was 10 boxes and inside it was loose documents, if I can recall it was reports on investigations, if I can recall correctly. So all of those dockets was loose, so I had to audit it, I made a list for each box and then we sealed the boxes on instruction of Colonel Bester.

ADV RANTHO: And then your indication that classification of the document had not been ascertained at the time when you deposed to this affidavit for compliance with Minimum Information Security Standards... [intervenes]

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: Can you just explain, yes... [intervenes]

20 MS COETZEE: Yes, it is correct, Chair ... [intervenes]

ADV RANTHO: What the document is... sorry, colonel, just to explain what the MISS document is about.

MS COETZEE: The MISS document is an instruction where certain classified, how you deal with certain classified documents from serious to top secret right to confidential, how you deal with this if you should

send it to another office.

You had certain documents that had to accompany those documents and in this case to this document it must be stored in a certain way if it is classified. So it must be under lock and key. If you have an inquiry file and you are working on it, after the day it must be locked into a safe, it cannot lie on the table.

So all confidential or secret, top secret must be locked away after the end of business day. The same with these, we sealed these boxes with elite seal and after sealing these boxes, I set up an index
10 and for each box there is a list of what is inside those boxes.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you. Before the documents were sealed, did you get to check what was contained in the boxes?

MS COETZEE: All I can recall it was reports, I cannot recall what it was about, according to me it is investigations progress, that is all that I can confirm now.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you. Paragraph 16 you stated that:

“At the time, Senior Superintendent Britz was responsible for the safekeeping of the documents until his retirement in February 2005 and the
20 documents stored at Wachthuis primarily fell into two categories.”

And then you say firstly:

“There was the files containing decisions already taken by the Priority Crime Litigation Unit, PCLU not to prosecute.” And then second category comprised

of the dockets regarded as finalised by the investigating officers involved.”

Now you confirm that is the contents of your affidavit?

MS COETZEE: Chair, Commissioners, I confirm.

ADV RANTHO: And then if I may just ask you to inform the commission how did you know that there were dockets that already were decided upon by the PCLU? How did you know?

MS COETZEE: When we moved the dockets, it was already closed at the front cover of the docket. So it is finalised.

10 ADV RANTHO: Okay.

MS COETZEE: In regards to the ‘not to prosecute’ there was a memorandum that were in some of those dockets from the litigation unit.

ADV RANTHO: And the memorandums would have indicated that there were decisions taken not to prosecute that.

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you. We can then proceed to paragraph 17 of your affidavit, wherein you stated that:

20 “From the initial batch of boxes received in March 2004, the number of files had almost doubled by the year 2005 and Senior Superintendent Britz kept a Control Register of all the matters that were added to the initial list I had drafted. After the retirement of Senior Superintendent Britz, Colonel Bester became responsible for safekeeping of the documents with my assistance.”

You confirm that?

MS COETZEE: I confirm that, Chair.

ADV RANTHO:

“He then later instructed that the documents be transferred close to his then office at CATS offices in Visagie Street.”

And that would have been Colonel Bester, do you confirm?

MS COETZEE: It is, I confirm it is Colonel Bester.

ADV RANTHO: You stated, you further state that:

10 “Due to my temporary assignment at the Boeremag trial, I unfortunately lost track of my diaries and cannot recall the actual date on which the movement of the documents occurred from Wachthuis to Visagie Street.”

You confirm that?

MS COETZEE: I confirm that, Chair, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: Okay. In paragraph 17 you essentially inform the commission that upon retirement of Senior Superintendent Britz your office took total control of all the documents that were under custody of
20 Senior Superintendent Britz. Correct?

MS COETZEE: That is correct, Chair, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: And then paragraph 18 you stated as follows:

“According to the manual register kept, several TRC cases were received for investigation since 2010. In demonstrating this to the Commission, the first

TRC cases referred by the PCLU to the DPCI
during March 2010 were recorded as follows...”

So you do confirm that that paragraph, the contents of paragraph 18?

MS COETZEE: I confirm that, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: Okay. Now if you may just explain to the Commissioners those cases? 18.1 up to 18.9, just to confirm that VC3, VC5, VC6, 7 up to 11 that they do refer to the cases that were referred in paragraph 18?

MS COETZEE: That is correct, Commissioners.

10 ADV RANTHO: If I may request you to go to VC4 in respect of paragraph 18.2, the one dealing with investigation of Basie Smit, the poisoning of Reverend Chikane. You see it?

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: May I request you to go to VC4. That will be on page 31.

MS COETZEE: Correct.

ADV RANTHO: Of your bundle. Can you just inform the commission what document appears on VC4?

MS COETZEE: Commissioners, on VC4 it is a letter from the Priority
20 Crimes Litigation Unit of to address to Senior Superintendent Bester in which they required investigation. Bearing of this letter is investigation Basie Smit, poisoning of Reverend Frank Chikane.

ADV RANTHO: Okay. And then the handwriting just at the bottom of page 31 there.

MS COETZEE: That is correct, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: Whose handwriting is that, do you know?

MS COETZEE: This handwriting is Senior Superintendent Bester's handwriting.

ADV RANTHO: Okay. You mean by Senior Superintendent Bester you mean Colonel Bester?

MS COETZEE: Colonel Bester, yes.

ADV RANTHO: Okay, thank you very much. Let us go to page 32 of the same document, colonel.

COMMISSIONER KGOMO: Yes, but this note, handwritten note, what
10 does it say? Can you read that?

MS COETZEE: Excuse me, sir?

COMMISSIONER KGOMO: The handwritten note.

MS COETZEE: The handwritten note, yes.

COMMISSIONER KGOMO: Can you read that?

MS COETZEE: Yes Commissioner, it is an instruction to Captain Makua, it says:

"Kaptein Makua, soos bespreek, bring jouself op
hoogte van die ondersoek."

COMMISSIONER KGOMO: And what does that mean?

20 MS COETZEE: It, his instruction to him is that as we discussed, familiar yourself with this investigation and give me feedback, to that extent.

COMMISSIONER KGOMO: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Ms Rantho.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you, Commissioner Kgomo. I must indicate that I attempted to actually try to get the witness to do some interpretation, she was struggling with the handwriting but I suppose we can take it

that she does, or she is able to read that handwriting.

COMMISSIONER KGOMO: Yes, thank you.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you, Commissioner Kgomo. Page 32 of the same document, colonel, I would like to refer you right at the bottom where it starts with 'in the light of the above' and I would like to request you to read into the record what is written.

MS COETZEE: What is written?

ADV RANTHO: Yes.

MS COETZEE:

10 "In light of the above, before commencing on a lengthy and costly investigation, it is recommended that Reverend Chikane be approached at a senior level and requested to indicate whether he in fact desires any further investigation in connection with this matter. If he does not, I would recommend to the national director that the matter be closed."

ADV RANTHO: And as you said, this was a letter that came from Adv MacAdam?

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

20 ADV RANTHO: To Colonel Bester at the time.

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you very much. And then perhaps if you can just explain again those annexures, your VC3 up to VC11, as to where did you derive that information or where did you get that information?

MS COETZEE: The information on my statement, Chair, is these letters

that we received in table 10 from VC1 right up to the end, it is the headings that they originated at. So if you look at and that is the heading would say 'investigation Cambridge', so I took the headings and I listed it according to all those letters that we received for investigation.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you. Paragraph 19 you stated that:

10 “There from, given the sensitivity around such investigations, the TRC cases that were registered for investigation at Head Office are reflected according to the respective years, a copy of the list is annexed to this affidavit and marked as VC12.”

You confirm that?

MS COETZEE: I confirm that, Chair, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: And then perhaps if I may just take you to VC12.

COMMISSIONER GABRIEL: It is page 54.

ADV RANTHO: I am indebted to you, thank you Commissioner Gabriel. It is page 54. Can you explain that register, how did you come about that register?

20 MS COETZEE: Chair, Commissioners, this is a typed version of a handwritten register that we kept. I say it is a value register that we wrote in daily, if you did a new investigation, it gets a unique number for that month and it is entered and also it is registered on the crime administrative system and it also gets a unique number.

Now this document that I, on 54, it is extract from that manual register and it is only the TRC cases. So if you should look at the

pages, you will see that inquiry numbers is not in order, there is gaps in-between. That is other investigations that are dealt with by CATS.

So if I can refer you to 54, Commissioners, number 1 it says enquiry 1 of 8 and number 2 it says enquiry 5 of 8, so that indicates investigations that were dealt with or investigated by CATS that is not part of this list.

ADV RANTHO: So in other words you selected those cases?

MS COETZEE: We selected those cases per year.

ADV RANTHO: Ja. In other words there would have been a register
10 kept that includes all cases investigated by CATS.

MS COETZEE: Correct.

ADV RANTHO: In my understanding.

MS COETZEE: That is correct, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: Okay. And then paragraph 20 you stated that:

20 “A document that I could trace which demonstrates
the continuous commitment by CATS to investigate
and finalise the TRC cases related to the year 2017
wherein a progress report was submitted in
response to a request for information by the United
Nations.”

Apologies, Commissioners. My sincere apologies, Commissioners. We were on paragraph 20, you confirm the contents of paragraph 20, correct?

MS COETZEE: I confirm, Chair, Commissioner.

ADV RANTHO:

“The following cases were then listed as being part
of the TRC investigations...”

Then from paragraph 20.1 up to 20.16 you listed those cases.

MS COETZEE: That is correct, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: And this related to the TRC cases, as you indicated?

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: And then paragraph 21, you then referred to an unsigned letter, referring to a letter dated 11 February 2017 from the acting national commissioner at the time and you indicated that:

10 “It is recorded that these additional cases were
received for further investigation in relation to the
TRC cases. A copy of the letter is attached hereto
and marked as BC13.”

You confirm the contents of paragraph 21?

MS COETZEE: I confirm the contents, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: And then if perhaps we may then go to that paragraph,
oh sorry, Annexure BC13 that appears on page 67 of the bundle that is
in front of you.

COMMISSIONER GABRIEL: Page?

20 ADV RANTHO: 67, Commissioners.

CHAIRPERSON: 67.

ADV RANTHO: 67, yes. So that is the letter that you are referring to in
that paragraph?

MS COETZEE: I confirm that, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: And then on top there it is Colonel Mahlangu and

Colonel Maluleka, who were those officers?

MS COETZEE: They were part of the investigating officers at CATS.

ADV RANTHO: And you say this letter was addressed to the head of Organised Crime. Who was the head of Organised Crime at the time?

MS COETZEE: 2017 it would be Lieutenant Colonel Dramat, Adv Khana.

ADV RANTHO: Maybe just to assist you, it is unsigned.

MS COETZEE: Yes.

ADV RANTHO: But at the end of it...

10 MS COETZEE: Let me just have a look.

ADV RANTHO: Yes, page 73.

MS COETZEE: Yes, the head of Organised Crime was Major General Ledwaba, that is correct.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you.

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: And then if I may just refer you to page 68, paragraph 1.7, maybe just for completeness sake, may you just read from 1.5, paragraph 1.5, read that into the record up to paragraph 1.7.

MS COETZEE:

20 “1.5. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is mandated to audit, monitor and co-ordinate the implementation of TRC recommendations that were approved by Government, which include criminal investigation against those who were refused amnesty.

1.6. The Justice Department is further mandated to report to Cabinet and Parliament on the Government's progress on the implementation of the recommendations as approved.

1.7. A task team was established at this office with the aim to speed up all TRC criminal investigations referred to the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation in 2010 by Priority Crime Litigation Unit.

10 ADV RANTHO: Thank you, and then paragraph 2 there is, the heading says 'cases on hand'.

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: Yes and then just underneath it reads:

"The investigation of nine matters are currently being conducted by the DPCI, CATS and managed by the PCLU."

You confirm that is what is contained in the document?

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

ADV RANTHO: And then what is then contained in the said paragraphs,
20 you have a list of cases being referred to there, can you just inform the Commissioners what those cases involved, in essence?

MS COETZEE: The... [intervenes]

CHAIRPERSON: What did they relate to?

MS COETZEE: Commissioners, this is all TRC related matters, so what they did is they listed all the cases on-hand at that time in 2017 and if

one looks at it, the first five was already on my list that I compiled and then new ones were then added as the year progressed.

ADV RANTHO: And the new ones, that will be from paragraph 2.6?

MS COETZEE: Yes, 2.6 from Orlando CAS392/11 right up to the end.

ADV RANTHO: And then in paragraph 3 the heading:

“The following new matters received from NPA
emanate from TRC cases and are still under
investigation.”

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

10 ADV RANTHO: So this would have been matters that were received subsequent to those ones that you just mentioned now from the NPA?

MS COETZEE: It is correct, yes.

ADV RANTHO: And then the list goes on, if you go to paragraph 4, the heading there:

“Prosecutions were however instituted in the
following cases...”

You then refer to 4.1 and 4.2, it is referred, I mean they, it refers to State versus Terre'Blanche and State versus Blani. You confirm that is what is contained in the... [intervenes]

20 MS COETZEE: I confirm, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: And then paragraph 4.3, State versus Nieuwoudt and others, that one. Perhaps if you can just read into the record what is stated in 4.3?

MS COETZEE:

“4.3. State versus Nieuwoudt and two others, the

accused, three former Security Branch members, were charged with the murder, kidnapping and assault of three Port Elizabeth activists (the PEBCO 3 incident). Although the accused were indicted in the Port Elizabeth High Court, the case was on an ongoing basis postponed and withdrawn due to lack of evidence after a period of five years.”

ADV RANTHO: Thank you and then paragraph 5 just in conclusion there, if you can just read from paragraph 5.1 in terms of challenges in
10 the TRC investigations.

MS COETZEE:

“5.1. The original case dockets and documentary exhibits were either lost, misplaced and or never returned by the TRC investigations to the original stations.

5.2. The TRC investigating officers are no longer available, to assist with the missing documents.

5.3. Most of witnesses had since died. The whereabouts of some are unknown. Others are
20 either unwilling to cooperate or cannot recall the events due to the lapse time. In other case the accused persons had died.”

ADV RANTHO: Then 5.4 just as a last one?

MS COETZEE:

“5.4. In one case (of PEBCO 3) the criminal case

dragged on for a considerable time because of a review application by the accused, which resulted in the case being withdrawn. The prosecution and investigators have encountered problems in reconstructing the records and scenes.”

ADV RANTHO: Thank you, colonel. Now in paragraph 22 you stated:

“Feedback by members of CATS was provided in various ways including daily interactions, management meetings...”

10 ADV PILLAY: Sorry, chair, I do not mean to interrupt my colleague, but we were just wondering would it be possible for the witness to read the entire document into the record for the context?

CHAIRPERSON: Yes, Ms Rantho?

ADV RANTHO: Chair, if my colleagues want to go through that document and it is in there, the affidavit has always been there and I assume that anybody would have read the affidavit would have...
[intervenes]

CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

ADV RANTHO: Read the annexures as well, so I did not want to waste
20 the Commissioner’s time.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

ADV RANTHO: And it is important just to mention that, or there is a reason why we mention those ones.

CHAIRPERSON: Ja.

ADV RANTHO: But it will become apparent later, yes.

CHAIRPERSON: Ms Pillay, I think I cannot direct Ms Rantho how to lead her witness.

ADV PILLAY: Thank you, Chair, we will take the witness through the document.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you, Chair. We were on paragraph 22, where you stated that:

10 “Feedback by members of CATS was provided in various ways including daily interactions, management meetings, information notes and progress reports to the Section Head. Since 2018, accountability sessions were held and reports were submitted to the Section Head of CATS monthly.”

You confirm that?

MS COETZEE: I confirm, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: And then if perhaps you may just elaborate further in terms of progress, you spoke of accountability sessions that were held and reports that were submitted to the section head. Can you just elaborate more in terms of what you meant by accountability sessions?

20 MS COETZEE: The accountability sessions was, there is a live document that is updated daily as well as monthly, Commissioners, and in this document, it will be similar to the VC13 document where there is a case number, a synopsis, the victims, persons involved and then it will say investigation conducted, investigation outstanding. So during the accountability sessions the members, the investigators, they had to give

feedback to the section head and during those accountability sessions and then they would, must indicate what they managed to do as per the list of instructions. And then that document is then, is also the, directed to commander of CATS.

ADV RANTHO: Are you in position to still proceed, we go to paragraph 23. Two minutes? Commissioners, may we just request perhaps just five minutes break?

CHAIRPERSON: Yes. We will adjourn for five minutes.

[End of recording]

10 INQUIRY ADJOURNS

INQUIRY RESUMES

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CHAIRPERSON: Ms Rantho?

ADV RANTHO: Thank you, Commissioners; the witness is ready to proceed.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

COMMISSIONER KGOMO: Maybe it could help, we would understand if you read most of the things.

ADV RANTHO: I beg your pardon, Commissioner Kgomo?

20 COMMISSIONER KGOMO: I say we understand, maybe it would help if you read most of the things.

ADV RANTHO: I will do so.

COMMISSIONER KGOMO: Yes.

ADV RANTHO: Yes, ja the witness is struggling with her voice.

MS COETZEE: Thank you, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: I will heed Commissioner Kgomo's advice and read out, you will then confirm. In paragraph 23 you stated that:

"Since 2021, the TRC Task Team was set up at CATS Head Office and some of the provinces categorised into five regions, for investigations of the TRC cases. All the cases that were outstanding before that time were then transferred to the newly appointed investigators through the re-enlistment of previous detectives on a contract basis."

- 10 Just explain the formation of the five regions to the Commissioners, just to make it clear.

MS COETZEE: Commissioners, all these cases were investigated at national head office. When the task team in 2021 there were people relisted, investigators were relisted to solely concentrate on the TRC cases. So all of them were then recruited on a contract basis and all the cases that were with head office were then redistributed to all those members. So at head office we received 14 new investigators to take over some of our investigations.

- ADV RANTHO: Thank you, colonel. We can go to paragraph 24
20 wherein you state as follows:

"After the retirement of Colonel Bester and from the year 2012, the Section Head of CATS Brigadier N Xaba who retired in March 2025, took over and ensured that cases that were registered at CATS were being effectively investigated accordingly."

You confirm that is your statement?

MS COETZEE: I confirm, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: You further state that:

“From November 2022, the TRC cases became the responsibility of the National Co-ordinator, Colonel NB Nkuna, who is part of those re-enlisted on contract reporting to Brigadier MJ Mathie as the commander of CATS.”

Confirm?

10 MS COETZEE: That is correct, Commissioners.

ADV RANTHO: Paragraph 25:

“Following a take-over from Colonel Bester upon his retirement, I became responsible for the safekeeping of the documents stored at Visagie Street. I continued to update the record as and when documents were received for safekeeping. The last list I compiled reflects the status of the documents that were received for safekeeping in 2019.”

20 And then you attached Annexure VC14 as the list, the updated list that you compiled before you left, I mean at the end of 2019, but can you confirm the contents of paragraph 25?

MS COETZEE: I can confirm.

ADV RANTHO: And then if I may request you to go to VC14, it is on page 75 of the bundle, Commissioners.

CHAIRPERSON: 74.

ADV RANTHO: Sorry, it is page 74. 74 of the bundle. Do you have it in front of you, colonel?

MS COETZEE: I have got it, thank you.

ADV RANTHO: And so you do confirm that that is the list that you compiled?

MS COETZEE: That is correct, Chair.

ADV RANTHO: Of the status as at 2019.

MS COETZEE: That is correct.

10 ADV RANTHO: And then Commissioners, just the last paragraph it is stated as follows:

“In conclusion, I neither participated nor witnessed any participation by any member of the SAPS in any efforts to stop any investigation(s) and/or prosecution of any cases related to the TRC or otherwise.”

Do you confirm that it is your statement?

MS COETZEE: I confirm that, Commissioners.

20 ADV RANTHO: Commissioners, that brings us to the end of evidence in chief by Lieutenant Colonel Coetzee.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Ms Kessery?

ADV KESSERY: Thank you, Chair, we have no questions for this witness.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Ms de Vos?

ADV DE VOS: Thank you, Chair, no questions from us.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Anyone online?

ADV LUKHELE: Thank you, Chair, Adv Lukhele for the NPA, no questions for this witness.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Anyone else? Ms Pillay?

ADV PILLAY: Thank you, Chair, we will bring an application to cross this witness.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

ADV PILLAY: Cross-examine this witness.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes, thank you. Noted.

10 ADV PILLAY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON: Mr Semenya?

ADV SEMENYA: For that Chair, we defer for question of the witness.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Ms Rantho?

ADV RANTHO: Commissioner?

CHAIRPERSON: I daresay there is nothing to say after that?

ADV RANTHO: No, nothing.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

ADV RANTHO: Thank you, Commissioner.

20 CHAIRPERSON: Lieutenant Colonel Coetzee, we thank you for having come to this commission to give evidence. There is an intention to bring an application to cross-examine you and once that application has been brought, it will be decided and a ruling made whether to cross-examine you, in which event you will be requested to come back to this commission for such cross-examination. But for now you are excused as a witness.

MS COETZEE: Understand, thank you Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: These proceedings are adjourned until tomorrow at 10:00.

INQUIRY ADJOURNS UNTIL 19 AUGUST 2026

CERTIFICATE OF VERACITY

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that **as far as it is audible**, the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the digitally recorded proceedings in the matter of:

**THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS
REGARDING EFFORTS OR ATTEMPTS TO STOP THE
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