



Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) Statement on Abdullah Ibhais

15 December 2021

A complaint was received unexpectedly by the SC on 24 October 2019 from a third-party participant in a tender for the award of a contract related to the management of social media platforms on behalf of the SC. The third-party alleged corrupt activity and asserted that the tender had not been conducted in accordance with the law. The complaint was supported with audio and visual documentary evidence.

Upon receipt of the complaint, the SC undertook a detailed internal investigation into the tender in question. The investigation encompassed 15 SC employees and concluded that the complaint raised by the third-party had merit, based on the interviews and the aforementioned evidence.

As a result of the internal investigation, a number of SC employees were issued with written warnings for breach of regulations in the tender process. Two employees were temporarily suspended on full pay for more serious breaches of regulations, one of whom was Mr. Ibhais.

Considering the seriousness of the evidence presented to the SC, the internal investigation committee recommended that the case should be passed on to the relevant public authorities for further investigation. At this stage, having followed the correct procedures, the SC's involvement in the case ended.

Mr. Ibhais received his full salary from the date of his suspension in November 2019, through August 2020 when he was made redundant along with numerous others as part of a budget restructuring exercise.

Mr. Ibhais' post-conviction allegations that the SC conspired against him because of his views on migrant workers are ludicrous, defamatory, and absolutely false.

The SC's work culture promotes and encourages staff raising issues and grievances, and particularly on the subject in question (Worker Welfare).

Mr. Ibhais' allegations (concerning an incident that occurred in August 2019) are even more questionable, due to the fact that he re-applied to work at the SC in March 2021, via a third-party communications/PR agency.

Had this company's application succeeded, Mr. Ibhais would have been working for the same individuals he claims conspired against him 18 months earlier.