



## **EFF STATEMENT ON MR. KGATHATSO TLHAKUDI'S PROTECTED DISCLOSURE TO PARLIAMENT**

Thursday, 20 April 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) is deeply concerned by the manner in which Parliament is handling the protected disclosure made to the institution by the former Director General of the Department of Public Enterprises in relation to the sale of South African Airways to Takatso Consortium.

Mr. Tlhakudi informed Parliament that the sale of SAA was mired in gross irregularities, which were sanctioned in the main by Mr. Pravin Gordhan and the cabinet led by Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa. On the 28th and 29th of October 2022, Mr. Tlhakudi wrote to the Speaker of Parliament, Mrs. Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, detailing at great length, how the executive led by Mr. Pravin Gordhan, worked in cahoots with Takatso Consortium to devalue the assets of SAA in order to purchase the airline at a much discounted rate.

In his submission, Mr. Tlhakudi indicated that the SAA Executive had indicated that SAA had properties to the value of R6 billion, while Takatso valued SAA properties at just R1.2 billion, and that SAA's total assets were worth just about R3 billion. This is in contrast with the valuation made by the executive of SAA, which had for instance indicated that the value of SAA aircraft spares was over R3 billion, and that there was about

R1.4 billion of SAA funds that were still to be repatriated to South Africa from SAA's regional markets.

The report to Parliament by Mr. Tlhakudi proved that SAA's assets were undervalued by an amount in excess of R7 billion. The South African government knew of these irregularities, and primarily, Mr. Gordhan knew of these, and sought to cover this up.

Mr. Gordhan's latest attempt at covering up the corruption relating to the purchase of SAA by Takatso Consortium has been through his appointment of an interim Board of SAA led by his long time comrade and friend, Derek Hanekom. Hanekom and the interim Board's mandate is simply to cover up these irregularities and ensure that the illicit benefits that Gordhan and Ramaphosa allies would get from the sale of SAA remain.

The intention is to hollow out the State in every possible way by manufacturing dysfunction in State Owned Enterprises and then handing state assets to private individuals on a silver platter. This has been the modus operandi of Ramaphosa's regime from the beginning.

Despite these revelations, Parliament has not moved an inch in addressing the disclosures made by Mr. Tlhakudi, instead, the majority party is using its majority to suppress any attempts by the opposition to hold the executive accountable.

The EFF and other opposition parties called for a full parliamentary inquiry into SAA and the Takatso Consortium deal. We further called the appointment of the interim Board to be put in abeyance until parliament

has concluded these investigations. The ANC however, has used its majority to quash these calls, thereby protecting and condoning the illegality involved in the sale of SAA.

The defence of the assets of the State are now the primary responsibility of the public, and we call on all nation loving South Africans to stand up and deal with the State capture spearheaded by Mr. Gordhan and Mr. Ramaphosa.



**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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