



**1 March 2021**

**Zondo commission - Koko adamant he was tricked into sharing Eskom info with third party**

Former CEO of Eskom Matshela Koko categorically denied having known that he was sharing Eskom internal matters with someone outside the power utility. Koko was making his fourth appearance before the commission of inquiry into allegations of state capture.

Pule Seleka led the evidence relating to e-mails exchanged between Koko and an individual only identified as “businessman”. The 2015 e-mails allegedly show Koko furnishing “businessman” with details of the prepayment arrangement Eskom was to enter into with Tegeta Exploration.

The bone of contention was Koko’s knowledge of the owner of the e-mail address [infoportal@zoho.com](mailto:infoportal@zoho.com), with which he was exchanging correspondence. He maintained that at the time he believed the address belonged to Eskom board chairman Ben Ngubane. However, Koko added, recent revelations have made him realise that the correspondence might have come from outside Eskom and he is flabbergasted by the situation.

“Now I understand that the e-mails I thought I was sending to Ngubane were being sent to an outside person and I am convinced that Miss Daniels had access to that portal. I don’t know whether they came from Salim Essa, I am not sure, but what angers me is that these e-mails should have not been accessed by external parties,” he said.

Koko was referring to Suzanne Daniels, former head of legal and compliance at Eskom, and Gupta associate Salim Essa, to whom the mystery address allegedly belonged. Daniels appeared before the commission in December 2020 and said that it was common knowledge that Koko was Essa’s “pet” and the two talked regularly. Koko in his evidence disputed this and said that Daniels provided him with the infoportal address.

“Suzanne gave me the e-mail address to communicate directly with Ngubane to prevent the disconnection between the executive and the board. All the information sent to this e-mail reached the chairman.”

Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo asked Koko if the fact that some of the messages exchanged between him and the infoportal address featured the name “businessman” did not raise any alarms. Koko answered that he did not critically analyse these e-mails, adding that neither him nor Ngubane discussed the issue in meetings because the correspondence would get printed as hard copies.

He reiterated that he did not knowingly send confidential company documents to a third party.

He further dismissed allegations that Essa paid R100 000 for his family’s trip to Dubai in 2016 and tasked the commission’s investigations team to thoroughly probe this. He personally paid for both his trips to Indonesia in 2015 and Dubai the following year, he stated.

“I used Thompson Travel agency for these trips but we have not been able to get the details of our travel itinerary. The agency did not have the details of trips undertaken more than three years ago and I believe your investigators can do better, chairperson,” Koko said.

He was disputing an affidavit made by travel agent Lima Alana, in which Alana claimed that Essa paid in cash for Koko’s trip to Dubai. The affidavit was a fabrication, Koko said.

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