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Zondo commission - Koko knew of Eskom suspensions before they happened

Former Eskom acting CEO Matshela Koko alerted a general manager to impending suspensions in 2015 that could see her replacing her own boss. Nonkululeko Dlamini told the commission of inquiry into state capture on Wednesday that Koko asked her to send her CV to him a day before the suspension of finance director Tsholofelo Molefe.

Dlamini, who was general manager for shared services at the time, testified that she and Molefe had been at an Eskom breakaway strategy meeting on 10 March 2015 when, during a break, she received a call from Koko. He was head of technology and commercial at the time, and he invited her to join him urgently for a meeting in Melrose Arch. She asked Molefe if she could go, and when the latter refused, Dlamini reverted to Koko to tell him that she would be unable to join him. His response to this was for her to send the CV in the meantime, while he hoped they could meet later. She did as instructed, but due to apparent technical issues, the document never arrived.

At the end of her day-long meeting, Dlamini met with Koko at a restaurant, and re-sent the document. At this point she asked why he needed her CV. According to her, Koko did not give a clear answer to her direct question, but instead intimated that several executives, including himself, would be suspended soon, and that the board might ask her to replace Molefe, who also would be suspended.

After a board meeting the next day, Molefe was indeed suspended, along with Koko, chief executive Tshediso Matona, and group capital head Dan Marokane. On 12 March the company secretary invited Dlamini to a meeting, where the board made an offer to act in Molefe's position. By that time, she told the commission, the news of the suspensions had been reported widely in the media.

When presented with Koko's version – from his statement – refuting her claim that she initially learned from him about the impending suspensions, Dlamini stuck by her story. She told the commission that she resigned in May 2015, just weeks after assuming the post, but served a full notice that ended in July.

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