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Zondo Commission – Crime intelligence paid for Munusamy car service

Journalist Ranjeni Munusamy had her car repaired by the police's crime intelligence (CI) unit in 2008 in return for her positive reporting on the division. This was alleged by former CI official Colonel Dhanajaya Naidoo on his second day of testimony before the commission of inquiry into state capture on Monday. Naidoo continues to testify *in camera* as he is currently under witness protection.

The first time he met Munusamy, Naidoo had been asked by then CI head General Mulangi Mphogo to help someone he referred to as a contact named "Jenni" with her vehicle. "He said he has a contact named 'Jenni', she is having problems with her vehicle and I must make contact with her," said Naidoo. He added that having cleared the matter with then CFO of CI, Solomon Lazarus, he met with Munusamy to collect the car from her, before taking it to New World Motors, which was linked to a company that was a regular service provider of CI, named only as Company X on the public records of the commission. The understanding at the time of Naidoo delivering the car to New World was to invoice Company X for the costs related to the car.

The work done on the vehicle, which he recalled was a BMW convertible, included the changing of tyres, fixing a faulty radio as well as replacing a seat.

Munusamy was placed on special leave by her current employer, *Sunday Times*, following last week's instance of allegations made against her at the commission by Hawks investigator Colonel Kobus Roelofse.

According to Naidoo, she was not the only journalist on the payroll of CI. Several others received benefits relating to the narrative they drove in their reporting on the unit. On another instance, Naidoo told the commission, he had once heard Mphogo's successor General Richard Mdluli say that he needed cash of about R20 000 for a journalist who had possibly damaging information on CI and needed to be paid off. The cash in question was obtained by way of an advance that was to be claimed by another agent who could not be named, with Lazarus' permission.

A short while after Munusamy's car had been fixed, Naidoo was again called by Mphogo who said that it needed further repairs. He again was tasked with taking the car in to New World, where he believes run flat tyres were installed. As much as R40 000 was spent to service the car, said Naidoo, although he could not confirm the motivation provided for in the claim against the CI account. Roelofse, in his statement, alleged that a payment of R143 000 was made in the same year to pay off Munusamy's vehicle finance costs.

Munusamy has denied the allegations, first from Roelofse and more recently from Naidoo.

Naidoo continues to testify.

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