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Zondo Commission – Bosasa’s Le Roux says Mantashe, Mokonyane, Makwetla among those who benefited privately

Cabinet ministers Gwede Mantashe and Nomvula Mokonyane, along with deputy minister of correctional services Thabang Makwetla, were named by a Bosasa employee as being among those who benefited from home security and general maintenance work paid for by the company over some years.

Former head of “special projects” Richard le Roux told the commission of inquiry into state capture on Thursday that his unit was always instructed to travel to the project sites in unbranded cars, and make sure they were not wearing Bosasa uniform, so that there would be no trace of Bosasa’s involvement in the projects. He was removed from special projects in early 2017, when CEO Gavin Watson perceived him to be disloyal. Le Roux said this came about when he responded to a Facebook by former COO Angelo Agrizzi, who had by then had a fallout with Watson, and had left the company months before.

Le Roux oversaw several assignments at the homes of people deemed VIPs, on the instruction of either Watson or Agrizzi. These would cost hundreds of thousands of rands at a time, which was always paid in cash to suppliers of material, without the beneficiaries having to part with a cent.

The assignments given to Le Roux, he said, would mostly involve installation of security equipment like CCTV cameras, alarm systems and electric fences. For Mantashe, work was done at three properties, one in Boksburg and two in the Eastern Cape areas of Kala and Elliot. The project at the minister’s Boksburg home cost about R300 000, and involved the installation of security camera equipment and specialised lighting. Mokonyane’s Krugersdorp home received attention over some time, from the fixing of a pool pump to the re-installation of an electrical distribution board, and even gardening work. It was also the only home where Le Roux met with Watson and Agrizzi, and it was emphasised that the work being done at the premises had to be speedy and of the highest quality. Le Roux did not quantify the cost of the work done there.

Dudu Myeni also had work done for her house in Richards Bay, in KwaZulu-Natal. Le Roux testified that he flew down to Durban with Bosasa director Trevor Mathenjwa, where the pair rented a car and drove to Richards Bay. While he assessed the security needs of the property, Mathenjwa had a meeting with someone inside the house, but Le Roux could not tell who. Once he was done, they left, and stayed overnight at a nearby hotel with the intention of flying back to Johannesburg in the morning.

Le Roux had already made an arrangement to return at a later stage with a team to do the actual work. By coincidence, there was a burglary at Myeni’s property on the same night. He and Mathenjwa went past the house again, before returning to Johannesburg. A tricky situation ensued later, when Le Roux turned up at the house with his team of technicians. He was confronted by a man who said he was investigating the recent burglary, and because Le Roux could not tell him that he was from Bosasa, a confrontation followed. A panicked Le Roux called Mathenjwa, and was told that under no

circumstances must he reveal that he was from Bosasa. He did not say how the matter was later sorted out.

Linda Mti, the former commissioner of correctional services who has been implicated by three witnesses linked to Bosasa as having had a corrupt relationship with the company, had two properties worked on. The deputy minister in the same department, Thabang Makwetla, also benefited from work done, along with ANC MP Vincent Smith, a man known only as “Mbulelo” who, Le Roux was told, worked for Prasa, and Desmond Nair, the chief magistrate for Gauteng. Their homes were generally fitted with electrical fences, CCTV camera systems and alarm systems, to the tune of amounts between R200 000 and R300 000 each.

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