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### **Zondo Commission: Dudu Myeni, Zuma helped smooth the way for Bosasa's dealings**

Former South African Airways chairperson Dudu Myeni was the essential conduit between Bosasa and Jacob Zuma that the company could not afford to let down, and when on one occasion CEO Gavin Watson asked about an appropriate gift for her to show the company's gratitude for her assistance, he was told a handbag would do the trick. She was eventually gifted with a Louis Vuitton bag, along with R300 000 as its contents.

Former Bosasa COO Angelo Agrizzi told the commission of inquiry into state capture on Monday that Watson asked him what gift to get Myeni as a token of his gratitude to her, and Agrizzi referred him to his wife. It was Mrs Agrizzi who came up with the idea of the handbag, for which Myeni would later thank Agrizzi, presumably because she had been told of his wife's help.

Myeni, he said, had already been on the payroll of Bosasa for some time, receiving R300 000 per month. He was told that the money was for the Jacob Zuma Foundation, of which Myeni was the chairperson, but he believes it was never paid to the foundation. She would also request Bosasa for help in arranging what Agrizzi referred to as "high end" functions for Zuma, for which the company would foot the bill. At one point, the cost of functions for Zuma that Bosasa paid for came up to R3.5-million.

During a meeting in June 2016 at the Nkandla residence of Zuma, coordinated by Myeni, Watson allegedly asked the former president if he had indeed been receiving monthly payments of R300 000, and Zuma confirmed this.

The meeting was to discuss the potential of Bosasa participating in a fracking deal in the Karoo, for which the company had held discussions with Falcon Oil and Gas. Bosasa had been approached by Anil Rahadkrishna, presumably, said Agrizzi, because of the company's close proximity to Myeni, and in turn Zuma.

As per an arrangement with Falcon and its partner Chevron, all potential fracking partners would be expected to be interviewed at Falcon's local offices. Bosasa was being considered for a facilities management contract, and did not have to adhere to the venue requirement and other limitations set out by the two companies, thanks to Myeni's influence.

"We had Dudu Myeni on our side and we wielded our whip, obviously Chevron had to come to our offices," said Agrizzi. Because the legislation in this area of business would have been a disadvantage to Bosasa, Zuma's influence was sought to help make the necessary changes. Agrizzi did not go into detail on what legislation this was, and said he was also not certain if the laws were actually changed. Also present at the meeting were Liezel Oberholzer and Phillip O'Quigley, who represented Falcon, and Myeni.

At this meeting, Bosasa director Joe Gumede brought up the issue of the Hawks investigation into Bosasa, which had crept up again to haunt the company. Agrizzi was told by Gumede later that when

he mentioned this to Zuma, the latter offered to make some phone calls, and seemed to be talking to an official in the Hawks. A meeting would later happen between the law enforcement agency and Bosasa, the details of which Agrizzi did not share.

Agrizzi continues to testify.

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