



## **COVID-19 – CMEFS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**FRIDAY 11-09-2020**

Hello. I do hope that this week's edition of our newsletter finds you and your family as well as can be.

### **COVID-19 AND CLIENT APPOINTMENTS AT OUR OFFICES**

Nothing happens quickly despite our very best efforts in this regard!

Progress is however being made in that the training material necessary for our staff has been successfully compiled which will allow training to commence during the course of next week and possibly end in the week following.

We are also in the process of having our access intercoms at the front and back entrance to the offices repaired as they have fallen into a state of disrepair as a result of lack of use and the corrosive effect of the ocean air with our offices being this close to the sea.

We have today installed foot operated hand sanitisers just inside our front and back office entrance doors.

We have elected to go the "gel" route rather than the "liquid" route in so far as sanitiser is concerned as it is less messy in that it does not squirt liquid all over the place when you depress the foot pedal.

Finally, I have today placed an order for the Covid-19 safety screens that will be installed at reception and in the two boardrooms where meetings and interviews will take place.

I am told that they should be installed and delivered 7-10 days from now.

Once these screens are up, it will be "all systems go" in so far as being able to keep client appointments at our offices is concerned, and we are really excited about this.

I don't know about you, but right now I am all "zoomed-out" and no matter that you get to see a face and or faces on a computer screen, to me NOTHING beats having a warm flesh and blood human sitting right in front of you.

And to help keep us positive as we move towards a post-covid-19 world, I thought I would share with you a recent article on the Ramaphosa presidency written by well-known and respected political analyst JP Landman.

### **J P Landman: It's not all doom and gloom. How the Ramaphosa presidency is Reclaiming the state**

“Just do something” is the cry now rising from all over South Africa as a plea to the president and Government in general to take some action to break the log-jam in which the country finds itself.

Whilst confidence is low, growth sluggish, and emigration high, it is useful to replay what has been done, writes JP Landman

The Ramaphosa administration has set itself two tasks:

- to rebuild the ethical foundations of the state and
- to revitalize the economy.

The two topics are too much to cover in one article, so I will only discuss ethical renewal here.

#### **Cleaning up and rebuilding ethics**

The country first and foremost had to be reclaimed from the forces of state capture.

Ramaphosa appointed four commissions of inquiry to help with the clean-up offensive.

Two are still in session (the ubiquitous Zondo commission and Mpati Commission into the Public Investment Corporation of PIC) and two have finished their work.

Between these commissions, the four have sparked considerable action – a lot of which we have already forgotten.

*[I have inserted a running total counter at the end of every paragraph to total the number of arrests/dismissals etc made as we go along just for emphasis.]*

#### **Freeing critical institutions**

It is useful to remember that both the erstwhile number one and number two in SARS.

Tom Moyane and Jonas Makwaka are gone. [2]

So too is the embarrassing for head of IT at SARS.

Mnamathe Makhekhe-Mokhuane, who made such a spectacle of herself on national television that she publicly apologised for it. [3]

That is not all, in the last week of July three SARS executives were suspended. [6]

The clean-up continues.

The EFF and the Public Protector are fighting a rear-guard action against SARS renewal with old allegations of rogue units and attacks on new SARS Commissioner Edward Kieswetter.

He is forging ahead unperturbed and can leave the Public Protector to the courts.

At the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) the erstwhile top three have also departed. [9]

One is fighting her dismissal in court and two have appealed to Parliament not to be fired, which will be an interesting test case for who is in charge in Parliament.

The departure of the three has freed the NPA from its era of Zuma capture and it is being rebuilt.

The new Director, Shamila Batohi, who has experience at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, has returned to South Africa to take up the baton

Batohi took office in February.

In March, a special unit focusing on cases arising from state capture revelations was formed.

In May, Batohi brought in well-known corruption buster Hermione Cronje, who returned to South African with valuable international experience to lead the new unit.

A senior advocate from Cape Town Bar, Geoff Budlender, has been appointed as strategic advisor to this unit.

Batohi was reappointed Willie Hofmeyr as head of the asset forfeiture unit after he was sidelined three years ago by the Zuma squad.

I wrote in April this year that 2020 will be the year of prosecutions and I explained why at the time.

I maintain this view.

Over at the Hawks, both the former head and acting head have been fired and replaced by the soft-spoken and highly regarded general Godfrey Lebeya. [10]

His influence is showing: two captains and a warrant officer from the Hawks were arrested for bribes. [13]

In Durban both the mayor and councilor have been arrested by the Hawks and have appeared in court (with the usual tweet from Zuma supporting the mayor and her supporters protesting outside the courthouse).[15]

Two officials from the Durban Metro were also arrested. [17]

A mayor of Newcastle was arrested for an alleged political murder: as was a former mayor of Endumeni for alleged conspiracy for murder. [19]

Not bad for an erstwhile Zuma (and current ANC) stronghold.

In the Free State nine civil servants and a director of a company were arrested and charged – one for interfering with the work of the Hawks. [29]

In Mpumalanga a former local ANC chief whip was arrested for corruption and fraud. The Hawks are clearly at work. [30]

In Limpopo the VBS report claimed the scalps of five mayors who resigned: a further four were fired and another three were suspended. [42]

In the North West three mayors resigned, one was suspended and three have taken legal advice to try and avoid dismissal. Public opinion counts – especially in the run-up to an election. [49]

At the SAPS a deputy commissioner has been fired and six officers of general or brigadier rank have been charged. [56]

As recently as last week seven junior officers were arrested for selling confiscated goods back to hawkers. [63]

In a significant ruling in July, one of the “untouchables” former head of crime intelligence Richard Mdluli, was convicted of several charges for offences committed 20 years ago in 1999. [64]

The wheels of justice turn slowly but they turn.

This is what John Block, the former ANC strongman in the Northern Cape and a Zuma acolyte also discovered – after many legal manoeuvres he is now serving a 15 year jail sentence. [65]

The SOE's are still burning cash and their balance sheets are shocking, but on the ethical front a lot has happened.

At Eskom former big bosses Brian Molefe, Anoj Singh and Matshela Koko are gone. [68]

Molefe has also been pursued by Solidarity and must now repay R10m to the Eskom Pension Fund.

Lifestyle audits were conducted on 365 Eskom managers, resulting in 44 cases being referred to the Special Investigating Unit. [107]

More than 1 000 disciplinary cases were instituted and employees decided to resign, including 14 senior executives. [1 107]

Of 25 employees who had “business interest in suppliers dealing with Eskom”, seven resigned and the rest terminated their interests.

Eskom has experienced a serious clean-up.

A year after the notorious Hlaudi Motsoeneng was dismissed from the SABC, three of his erstwhile henchmen are gone too. [1 111]

(The verbose Hlaudi failed with court challenges to regain his job and then went on to fail again in his election efforts to get into Parliament.)

In an important self-initiated report published last week, compiled by veteran journalist Joe Thloloe the broadcaster laid bare political inference in its editorial policy.

Former minister Faith Muthambi complained she was “rubbished” in the report – this could not have happened to a nicer person.

Expect further fallout from the Thloe report.

A Zuma – appointed chairman is still in place at the SABC and the corporation wants a mere R3bn to stay afloat, but a clean-up has certainly taken place.

The PIC saga is still ongoing before the Mpati commission but a new board is already in place, the CEO and two former senior executives are gone, and several have been suspended. [1 114]

In an important break with the past, Cabinet reversed the practice of a politician chairing the board.

Under new chair, Reuel Khoza's experienced leadership and rock-solid integrity, the PIC will with a little help from the Mpati commission, be cleaned up properly and will head in a new direction.

In this second stint as Minister of Finance, Pravin Gordhan, desperately tried to get rid of the former Zuma acolyte, Dudu Myeni, from SAA.

She is now gone, as are several former chief executives. [1 115]

Everybody can see how the once mighty have fallen.

For SAA, there is only the small matter of staying afloat.

At Transnet, five executives departed, including the CEO, and eight more have been suspended. [1 128]

At Denel, The CEO finance chief and chair are all gone. [1 130]

Both Denel and SAA have new boards.

It may not be enough to save them financially, especially Denel, but action has been taken against weak ethics.

## **Cabinet**

Perhaps the biggest clean-up took place in Cabinet.

Ramaphosa inherited a Cabinet of 36 ministers.

There are 28. [1 138]

At most, five of these can be described as Zuma or Magashule-supporting and some of them will even deny this.

The number of government departments has been reduced from 40 to 35.

For all the publicity that was given to erstwhile Zuma ministers who were appointed chairs of parliamentary committees, the numbers speak for themselves.

There are 36 committees in Parliament.

Traditionally the Select Committee on Public Finance (Scopa) has an opposition party member as chair.

That is the case again in this Parliament.

Of the remaining 35 committee chairs, 11 may be regarded as Zuma or Magashule supporters.

Most of these are ministers who were kicked out of Cabinet.

From a minister to a chair of a parliamentary committee where every move is watched by the opposition parties... and now we are asked to believe they are paralysing government?

So what?

Part of Ramaphoria was the belief that the bad guys would lose.

That is certainly happening.

- People who were once untouchables have fallen from grace for all to see.

Some have even been convicted already.

The impunity of the Zuma years is slowly being reversed.

- The process is not over, with the Zondo commission still in session and almost weekly revelation of appalling behaviour.

Getting convictions in court is very different from revealing things at a commission.

Despite this, many people have already fallen on their swords.

- Civil society organisations have helped in the clean-up and this speak volumes for South Africa's democratic activism.

- JP Landman is a political analyst. This article was originally written for Nedbank Private Wealth.

End of article.

Isn't it interesting and good to know that good things are indeed happening in our country right now, and that many who held positions of great influence and power are now no longer able to exert their negative influence any longer.

I also have no doubt that once the remaining two commissions have completed their work, there will be many more arrests, some very high profile indeed.

I also have no doubt that given the fullness of time, even the Gupta's will be called to account for their nefarious wrong-doings.

Not only South Africa, but indeed the whole world is now a very different place from what it was even as little as 10 years ago, with one of the biggest changes being, I think, a continuing growing intolerance for criminal and corrupt activities.

We all know what a nuisance complying with FIC can be. But it is things such as this that is making life very difficult for the criminal element to enjoy the fruits of their wrong-doings.

Again, are we where we want to be in that regard yet?

Certainly not.

But as I did say in an earlier letter, better that things are bad and getting better than things are bad and getting worse.

And getting better they are.

And dare I say even from a Covid-19 point of view!

Nine sends love and thoughts to all, as always.

Until next time then, from all of us at CMEFS, do take good care of yourselves. Kind regards.  
Charles.



Name	Division	Cell Number	Detail
Alicia	Wealth	063 434 8074	Learner. Servicing attaching to the following classes of business. Investment Accounts, Tax Free Savings Accounts, Retirement Annuities, Living Annuities, Pension and Provident Preservation Funds, Endowments.
Andrew	Wealth	063 321 7399	Intern. New business and servicing. Medical Aids & GAP Cover. In the process of migrating across to the Wealth Division.
Andrisha	Wealth	063 378 1473	Representative. New business. Investment Accounts, Tax Free Savings Accounts, Retirement Annuities, Living Annuities, Pension and Provident Preservation Funds, Endowments.
Bernelee	Tax	078 708 4536	Administrator providing admin support to Geraldine and understudy to Geraldine.
Brady	Wealth	071 843 3933	Representative. New business. Investment Accounts, Tax Free Savings Accounts, Retirement Annuities, Living Annuities, Pension and Provident Preservation Funds, Endowments.
Felicia	Risk	071 880 9576	Learner. Servicing attaching to Short-Term insurance, assisting Stella. Starting to obtain some exposure to Medical Aids, GAP Cover and Life Insurance.
Geraldine	Tax	083 754 1699	Head of tax division.
Jamie	Wealth	071 850 1389	Learner. Core responsibility being to produce and send out the monthly investment statements and to handle any queries connected to them. Satellite responsibility to assist where possible in the Wealth Division.
Luh	Bookkeeping	063 102 3313	Head of Bookkeeping Division. Professional Accountant (SA) SAIPA 30345
Nadean	Tax	063 026 1351	Intern. Administrator providing admin support to Bernelee and understudy to Bernelee.
Siso	Risk	060 376 6605	Learner. Starting to obtain some exposure to Short-Term insurance Medical Aids, GAP Cover and Life Insurance.
Stella	Risk	078 784 6462	Head of Short-Term Insurance Division.
Terisha	Books	071 858 3373	Intern. Bookkeeping Division. Data Capture and other functions relating to the bookkeeping Division.
Thabo	Risk	078 004 3864	Learner. Starting to obtain some exposure to Short-Term insurance Medical Aids, GAP Cover and Life Insurance.