

Holomisa's tweets regarding legal assistance to PIC employees are absurd

PRETORIA – 22 March 2019: The Public Investment Corporation (PIC) is of the view that the assertion by the leader of the United Democratic Movement (UDM), Bantu Holomisa, that the PIC has appointed the legal firm to control flow of information to the Commission of Inquiry is absurd.

In a tweet earlier this week, which attached a letter from the attorneys Mkhabela Huntley Attorneys, Holomisa questions the reasons for PIC's appointment of the attorneys and concludes that this is, "a thinly veiled attempt to control flow of information" and that the "PIC employees should not touch this with a barge-pole". The PIC appointed the attorneys to assist employees with preparation of their submissions to the Commission of Inquiry into impropriety at the PIC. Employees are not obliged to use the services of these attorneys, but the service has been made available for any employee who may need the assistance.

Had Holomisa cared to understand the content of the letter that he posted and not to read into it, it would be apparent that the nature of these attorneys' work will be advisory in nature. It will further be apparent that the:

- The attorneys will take instructions from and liaise directly with individual employees; and not provide any report to the management regarding our services including close-out reports;
- The attorneys will treat and keep strictly confidential all information that they obtain from the employees, as ethically expected in accordance with attorney-client privilege principles
- The law firm has undertaken that where in the course of the attorneys' work, a conflict arises in relation to the interests of various employees they are assisting, a different professional within the same law firm will be assigned to assist the next employee and "Chinese" walls will be created between the relevant professionals.

Holomisa will do well to desist from actively obtaining and publishing PIC internal documents. It is obvious that he has an ulterior motive against the PIC and that he will stop at nothing to malign any PIC initiative.

End.../

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