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**PRESS STATEMENT: ALLEGED CORRUPTION AT THE HELM OF THE ZIMBABWE  
REPUBLIC POLICE (ZRP)**

Press statement begins.....

Good morning to all here present and thank you for taking the time to join me today.

“To maintain law and order, protect and secure the lives and property of the people and to institute dynamic policing practices that engender effective prevention, investigation and detention of crime” and so goes the ZRP Mission Statement. It is a statement that inspires confidence that an organisation is geared to effectively and efficiently tackle the challenges presented by miscreants in society. But what if these so called miscreants are not only members of the organisation, but indeed head the ranks? Who polices the police?

It is unfortunate that over the years, the ZRP has been prone to leadership scandals emanating back to the Chihuri era. Whilst they have done their utmost to spruce up their image through vibrant public relations campaigns and active social media interaction, the good they are doing is being eroded by the dark allegations constantly dog the various Commissioner-Generals, well two to be exact. Two Commissioner-Generals that share a long history of working together and comradery. Did this relationship extend to delving into unscrupulous acts of corruption and abuse of office? Well, let us see, the allegations are there.

Looking back at Commissioner-General Matanga’s illustrious career in the ZRP, we can witness his rise through the ranks where he literally started from the bottom. The speed with which he rose, whilst celebrated, is questionable in itself in accordance to set process and procedure.

It is alleged that whilst CG Matanga was the Deputy Commissioner-General, Administration during the CG Chihuri era, he sourced goods and services from personally known friends and acquaintances for self-aggrandisement. These dealings are said to be fraught with irregularities and attempts are alleged to have been made by Matanga to have these dealings swept under the carpet whilst yet other dealings conducted by former CG Chihuri and himself are alleged to have been torn to shreds to conceal the evidence.

Today Matanga heads the ZRP but it would appear that the allegations continue as follows:



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- Sometime in December 2019, CG Matanga, in the company of his Chief Staff Officer, Transport and Logistics, Commissioner Hlabiso, is alleged to have paid a visit to Croco Motors with the intent to purchase eighty (80) operations vehicles without following due tender process and procedure. In his personal capacity, CG Matanga is then alleged to have instructed Croco Motors to clear the eighty (80) vehicles on Customs Clearance Certificates (CCC) under the Zimbabwe Republic Police. Matanga is further alleged to have instructed Croco Motors to brand the aforementioned vehicles in the ZRP colours ready for collection.
- However, during routine inspections of Croco Motors, ZIMRA officials discovered various anomalies in the procurement process of the aforementioned vehicles. As an alarm was raised, CG Matanga is alleged to have panicked and subsequently could not make collection of the vehicles as initially agreed. Matanga is then alleged to have hastily made an attempt to institute regulated tender procedures in retrospect, but, however, in vain. Matanga is then alleged to have proceeded to have payment made for fifteen (15) of the eighty (80) ZRP branded vehicles which are currently parked at the ZRP warehouse, Transport Section whilst the remaining sixty-five (65) ZRP branded vehicles remained at the Croco Motors bonded warehouse in Harare. Frantic efforts by Matanga to engage the Croco Motors owner, Mr. Chiwenga are alleged to have proved fruitless leaving Matanga exposed and in a quandary as to how to proceed. Matanga is subsequently alleged to have initiated negotiations for condonation papers for the ZRP branded vehicles at the Croco Motors bonded warehouse as a way of concealing his corrupt administrative practices.
- What is further extremely disconcerting to note is that the price paid for these vehicles by the ZRP was approximately double the actual value of the vehicle from other players who were denied the opportunity to tender as the procurement process was flouted and fraught with irregularities whilst prejudicing the ZRP of a huge sum of money in the process.
- In another incident, Matanga is alleged to have approached Scanlink with the intention of purchasing Command vehicles for Chief Superintendents and Assistant Commissioners at a cost of approximately USD43,000.00 (forty-three thousand United States dollars) each for the Chief Superintendents and USD66,000.00 (sixty-six thousand United States dollars) each for the Assistant Commissioners. The total number of vehicles is yet to be verified. Once again acting in connivance with Commissioner Hlabiso and this time with Scanlink representatives, the values of the aforementioned vehicles were inflated two-fold at the behest of Matanga. This price anomaly however came to light, and in an attempt to conceal the corruption, the police tried to engage Scanlink to reimburse the value of the inflated amount.
- It is further alleged that Matanga is the recipient of five (5) residential stands at the Sandton development near Westgate in Harare, obtained through allegedly corrupt means through a one, Felix Munyaradzi. Furthermore, it is also believed that Matanga is the beneficiary of further stands through the then Mayor of Harare, Herbert Gomba.
- Matanga is also alleged to have been involved in road traffic accidents that have caused his top of the range vehicles to be written off and replaced whilst police stations suffer from lack of transport to carry out investigations challenges.

- There are further allegations of boreholes being sunk in almost all police stations countrywide that were not cased and subsequently fell in that would also require investigation.
- Even more unsettling is an alleged alliance between Matanga and one Delish Nguwaya for the purposes of bribery which would appear to have sucked in the Director of the Special Anti-Corruption Unit in the President's Office, Thabani Mpofu as well as members of the Magistrates Court and CIO. This alleged cartel is said to be causing fear and despondency to its victims who are allegedly arrested either by the ZRP or SACU and whilst placed on remand through the contacts at the Courts, bribes are demanded from them to secure their release. These alleged syndicates are believed to target those loyal to His Excellency, President E. D. Mnangagwa, senior ZRP officers as well as other individuals.

The procurement violations are apparently not limited to the above listed and it is believed that the flouting of procurement procedures, price inflations, the indiscriminate arrests of targeted individuals, persecution as opposed to prosecution, abuse of office and corruption are all allegations that a concerted and thorough investigation will unearth.

These are allegations that I have officially submitted to the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission.

You see the point of allegations is to give opportunity for one to be acquitted, however, in order for these allegations to be thoroughly investigated, it would require CG Matanga to step down pending investigation to mitigate the occurrence of intimidation and or evidence tampering. How does a junior officer investigate his boss whilst still in office?

The allegations as stated above are of a criminal nature and therefore should be treated with the seriousness and urgency they deserve. Matanga's position as Commissioner-General ZRP surely does not absolve him from investigation and indeed on the contrary, for one placed with so much responsibility, an exemplary conduct is not only expected, but demanded of him, he should be squeaky clean.

Many of the incidents of police insubordination can be traced to a leadership vacuum in the ranks. The majority of the members of the police force are unable to function in a professional manner as is demanded of their station due to fears of victimisation which unfortunately prejudices the innocent general public. So I am forced to ask again, who polices the police? Enough is enough, Matanga must be investigated.

**Hon. Temba P. Mliswa (MP)**

Member of Parliament

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Press statement ends.....