

Monument Office Park, 71 Steenbok Ave, 1st Floor, Block 3, Monumentpark, P O Box 974, Pretoria, 0001, Docex 97, Pretoria T (012) 435 9444 E vzlr@vzlr.co.za F Gen/Alg (012) 435 9555 Deeds/Aktes (012) 435 9666 www.vzlr.co.za

ATTORNEYS PROKUREURS

Mr Tony Beamish

By email

Our ref: J-P ROBBERTSE Your ref:

19 January 2023

Dear Sir

[URGENT MEDIA REQUEST FOR COMMENT] Double hit for RAF claimant - 2023-01-17

- 1. Your emails dated 16 and 17 January 2023, refer.
- 2. We do not, at this stage, intend to respond to each and every averment in your emails or the so-called draft article referred to therein, and our failure to do so should not be construed as an admission of whatsoever nature. We reserve our rights to take the appropriate steps against you and any publication which may publish the slanderous article, and to respond to the unmeritorious accusations in the appropriate forum.
- 3. We do however wish to record that we have taken note of the unfortunate and one-sided draft article which you have already prepared, prior to engaging with us. Unfortunately, the allegations of and concerning our firm and our employees as contained in your draft article are unmeritorious, *per se* defamatory and devoid of truth. Their publication will not be reasonable in the circumstances.
- For the sake of good order, we confirm that we were appointed by Messrs. John B Scott Attorneys to act on their behalf as their correspondent in Pretoria (as their address falls outside of the 15km radius provided for in the Rules). As correspondent, we act on instructions

VZLR Inc. Reg. nr: 1989/001203/21 Vat nr: 4110107887 Directors: C A van Rensburg B Proc (UP), F B van Biljon B luris LLB (UFS), E Niemand BComm LLB (UFS), J C Kriek LLB (NWU), T Kirchner LLB (UP), T Steyn BComm LLB (UP) LLM (UNISA), J Dickason BComm LLB (UP) LLM (NWU), J Robbertse BComm LLB (UP), T W Snyman LLB (NMMU), M van Der Merwe LLB (UFS), J W Joubert LLB (UNISA) M.Phil (Cum Laude) (UP), J H Rabie B Cons. Sci BComm LLB (UP), B Singh LLB (UP) LLM (UNISA), T Fari LLB (UJ) LLM (UP), A Janse van Vuuren LLB (UP) Assisted By: Senior Associates: R Mahomed LLB (NMMU), C du Toit LLB (UP), A van Niekerk BComm LLB (UP), W Louw LLB (UP), L Swart LLB (UP) MBA (TUT) Associates: F K Nong LLB (UL), I G Treurnich LLB (Cum Laude) (UP), L Schraader LLB (NWU), LLM (NWU), J I van Schalkwyk LLB (NWU) LLM (Cum Laude) (UP); Z Sibisi LLB (UNISA), L R P Nemudzivhadi LLB (UL); K Z Modikoe LLB (UNISA) Junior Associates: P M Grimbeek LLB (UFS), J Pillay BA (UKZN) LLB (UNISA), M Labuschagne LLB LLM (UP), V Mabuntana BComm LLB (UP), M M Radebe LLB (NWU), S J Hyman BComm LLB (UP), Consultants: F E Geldenhuys B Iuris LLB (UP), W A van Velden BA LLB (UP), J A van Zyl B Proc (UP), R Coetzee B Proc (UP), M Dixon LLB (UP), G C Germishuizen B Proc (UNISA), C M du Plooy B Proc (UNISA), J P H Maree LLB LLM (UP), Ldu Plooy LLB (UNISA), T van Zyl BComm LLB MComm (NWU), M Schultz BComm LLB (UP) Also At: The Pinnacle Building, Suite 301, 1 Parkin Street, Nelspruit, Tel: (013) 752 2065, Fax: (013) 752 2472, P O Box 556, Sonpark, 1206. Docex 40, Nelspruit And 35 Ferguson Road, Illovo, Sandton, 2196. B-BBEE Status: Level 1 Contributor

received from our instructing attorneys. We do not decide where our instructing attorneys issue summons and cannot dictate to them where to do so.

- 5. At present, the review is *sub judice* where the issues have been ventilated in Court and we do not deem it necessary to comment on your accusations at this stage.
- 6. Furthermore, issues between the client and our instructing attorneys, should be referred to our instructing attorneys for comment. We decline to do so.
- 7. We take this opportunity to remind you that accusations against attorneys premised on alleged dishonesty, are the most serious of accusations, and that the false accusations in this regard are treated with equal seriousness. In the words of Mayosi AJ in the matter of *Leonard Charles Katz v Martin Sylvester Welz and Chaucer Publications (Pty) Ltd:*

Imputations of serious dishonesty may cause greater hurt to dignity and reputation than imputations of private immorality or political unreliability, and may attract greater awards of damages.

The statements published by the defendants regarding Mr Katz are highly defamatory. Accusing any person, let alone an attorney, of corruption and/or fraud is about as serious and damaging an allegation as can be made.

We trust you find the above in order.

Your faithfully <u>VZLR INC</u> Per: J-P Robbertse Direct tel: (012) 435 9324 E-mail: jaun@vzlr.co.za

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