



570 Fehrsen Street  
Bridge Office Park  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Steven House  
Brooklyn, 0181

P O Box 60410  
Karen Park, 0118

**Telephone:** +27(0)12-433-6341

**Fax:** +27(0)12-433-6301

**Mobile:** +27 (0)82-376-4947

**Email:** [info@mahlakoana.co.za](mailto:info@mahlakoana.co.za)

Your Ref:

Our Ref: Mr Mahlakoana

Date: 14 December 2021

**THE EDITOR**

**GROUND UP ONLINE PUBLICATION**

**SUITE 08SB, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

**SOUTH BLOCK, TANNERY PARK**

**21 BELMONT ROAD**

**RONDEBOSCH**

**CAPE TOWN 7700**

**PER EMAIL:** [info@groundup.org.za](mailto:info@groundup.org.za)

**RE: CONCERNS RELATING TO FALSE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE ARTICLES  
PUBLISHED BY RAYMOND JOSEPH.**

1. The above matter refers.
2. We represent Ms. Pinky Khosa, hereinafter referred to as our client.
3. Our client is deeply concerned about the false statements relating to her and the Lulamisa Development Organisation NPO published by GroundUp. One such article was published on 9 December 2021 titled "*Secrecy surrounds R80 million in Lottery funding for sports project*" and was written by Raymond

Joseph.<sup>1</sup> Our client is of the opinion that the said article is defamatory as the allegations contained therein portray her as having been involved in wrongdoing.

4. Our client has noted with grave concern your failure to approach her for comment or request for information prior to the publication of the article. It is hereby recorded that our client was not at any point afforded an opportunity to present her side of the story. Therefore, the notion that our client failed to respond to questions sent to her by Mr Raymond Joseph is not only incorrect but also defamatory. Our client has not received any email from any of the GroundUp journalist(s) requesting any information, neither did she receive a telephone call or message from Raymond Joseph.
5. With reference to the sod-turning ceremony, it is not true that Mr Siweya, the former director of the NPO was present at the ceremony. It is in fact our client and a representative of the National Lotteries Commission (“NLC”) who were in attendance. As far as our client is aware, Mr Siweya only did a radio interview the day after the sod-turning ceremony. How the publication arrived at a conclusion that Mr Siweya was present at the ceremony remains puzzling.
6. Our client maintains that there exists no secrecy around the R80 Million grant received from the NLC. The grant was awarded to our client on merit. Our client wishes to record that there exists no obligation on them to disclose to any third party how the funds were utilised, however if any third party is keen on obtaining any such information, a formal request for information can be made to the NLC. All progress reports were submitted to the NLC during the project implementation state.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.groundup.org.za/article/minister-lottery-boss-and-luxury-r56-million-home/>

7. Our client is of the view that these articles are damaging to her good name and as a result, she and the NPO are likely to suffer prejudice as a result. It is therefore requested that the articles be retracted, and an apology be tendered in so far as false statements are made in relation to our client.
8. Kindly respond by close of business on Friday 17 December 2021.
9. Trusting the above is in order and hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours faithfully

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**Kwena Mahlakoana Attorneys**

Per: Kwena Mahlakoana

Tel: (012) 433 6341

Mobile: 082 376 4947

Direct email: [kwena@mahlakoana.co.za](mailto:kwena@mahlakoana.co.za)

*(Unsigned due to electronic transmission)*

