

Good day Mr Malwandla, I am a journalist and I work for GroundUp in Cape Town.

I would like to pose some questions about the purchase of a house situated at 54 Mandeville Road in Bryanston.

I plan to publish a story on Monday, 15 November and request that you respond to my questions by close of business on Friday, November 12.

Yours Sincerely,

Raymond Joseph

I have learned reliably that:

- The wife of Sports Minister Fikile Mbalula initially viewed the house when it was advertised as a showhouse and expressed an interest in it;
- that he personally visited the house to view it;
- that he negotiated with the seller to purchase some fridges, a TV, wooden blinds, garden furniture and garden equipment, including lawnmowers.
- Both the seller and the agent understood that he and his were the buyers;
- An addendum to the deed of sale – dated February 25, 2016 – lists Mr. Mbalula and his wife as the buyers;
- The same addendum was initially signed by “N Mbalula”. This was crossed out and the document was then signed by you, Mr. Solly Mwandla.
- A second offer to purchase was signed by you on March 5, 2016, as “duly appointed by the new purchaser”, Upbrand Properties, to act on their behalf.
- Upbrand Properties is linked to National Lotteries Commission COO Phillemon Letwaba and members of his family.
- Upbrand is currently under investigation by both the SIU and the Hawks for alleged corruption involving Lottery-funded infrastructural projects.
- Your NPO, Lulamisa Community Development supplied proof to the transferring attorneys that it had over R5.3-million in its call account with FNB.

Questions

- 1) Why did Mr. Mbalula pull out at the last moment and not go ahead with the purchase of the house?
- 2) How did Upbrand Properties become involved and end up buying the house instead?
- 3) Did you Mr. Mbalula and his wife pay anything - in the form of a deposit or for anything else - towards the purchase of the house before Upbrand stepped in as buyers?
- 4) If so, how much, and has this money been refunded to them?
- 5) Did he ever move into the house?
- 6) If not, why not?
- 7) Did the Mbalulas ever take possession of the items Mr. Mbalula negotiated to buy from the seller of the house as per the addendums naming him and his wife as the buyers? (This includes fridges, a TV, wooden blinds, garden furniture and garden equipment, including lawnmowers.)

- 8) A Public Protector report dealing with Mr. Mbalula's trip to Dubai over Christmas 2016 found that you (Mr. Mwandla) had been involved in booking your tickets. Were the Mbalulas aware that you were representing Upbrand in the purchase of the house?
- 9) What is your current relationship to i) Mr Mbalula; 2) Phillemon Letwaba, and; 3) Upbrand Properties?
- 10) How did you become involved as an intermediary on behalf of Upbrand?
- 11) Why, even after Upbrand were replaced as the buyers of the house did the addendum to the agreement still reflect Mr Mbalula and his wife as the buyers?
- 12) NPOs directly related to you have received over R90-million in Lottery grants. One of them, Lulamisa Community Development, has received R80-m in Lottery grants, R64 million of this around the time of the purchase of the house by Upbrand.
Why did Lulamisa Community Development provide proof to the transferring attorneys that it had over R5-million in funds in its bank account as proof that there were sufficient funds to complete the sale?
- 13) Why was an NPO that has received tens of millions of rands in Lottery funding involved in Lottery funding involved in the purchase of the Bryanston house?
- 14) Was the NLC or any other of Lulamisa Community Development's funders aware that you were using donor funding as a guarantee for the sale of a private home to a private company?
- 15) Where you or Lulamisa paid to act for Upbrand?
- 16) Did you declare to the sellers that you are in business with suspended NLC COO Phillemon Letwaba and that you and him are co-directors in several companies?
- 17) Do you have any other relationship to Phillemon Letwaba beyond your business relationship?
- 18) What is your relationship to Upbrand and its owners?
- 19) What is your relationship, either business or personal, to Fikile Mbalula?
- 20) Does Upbrand owe you or Lulamisa any money that you may have put into the house?
- 21) If so, how much?

Thanks, Raymond Joseph