BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF STATE CAPTURE, CORRUPTION AND FRAUD IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR INCLUDING ORGANS OF STATE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

I, the undersigned,

Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa

do hereby state under oath that:

- I am the duly elected President of the Republic of South and thereby, in terms of section 83(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, am the Head of the National Executive.
- 2. I depose to this affidavit on request of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector including Organs of State, established in terms of Proclamation 3 of 2018, published in Government Gazette 41403 of 25 January 2018 ("the Commission"). The request of the Commission is recorded in a letter of 27 March 2019 addressed to my legal adviser (and attached to this affidavit marked "A"), and referring to conversations I have had in this regard with the Chairperson of the Commission, when he requested that I and my fellow Cabinet members "state whether or not [we] had had any meeting or meetings or interactions or dealings with any one or more of the Gupta brothers and, if so, disclose the nature and extent of such interactions." The letter also refers to the suggestion by the Chairperson of the Commission that I and members of the National Executive "also deal with any meetings or interactions

that [I] and other members of the National Executive may have had with BOSASA or any BOSASA subsidiary or with any persons who are or were directors of managers or employees or agents of BOSASA or any of its subsidiaries."

- 3. The facts deposed to in this affidavit are within my own personal knowledge and belief and are true and correct.
- 4. The commission has requested me to state whether I have ever met or had dealings with some members of the Gupta family. I have met two of the brothers on three or four occasions.
 - 4.1. The first time I met them was at a media briefing by held by the ANC officials that took place after the 53rd Conference of the African National Congress ("the ANC") in Bloemfontein. This took place on or about 21 December 2012, when the newly elected officials of the ANC were presenting the resolutions taken at the Conference at a breakfast media briefing broadcast by the South African Broadcasting Corporation ("the SABC"). I am not able to say which of the brothers I met at the time as I did not get to know their individual names.
 - 4.2. As far as I can recall the second time I met the brothers was at a similar event after the 2014 national elections.
 - 4.3. My interactions with the Gupta brothers were at events where nothing of any consequence was discussed. I never engaged with them beyond basic greetings, pleasantries and common courtesies.

- 4.4. The only occasion on which matters of substance were discussed was when the Gupta brothers requested a meeting with ANC officials (I gathered from the evidence of our then Secretary General Minister Gwede Mantashe that this was by letter of Nazeem Howa) to discuss their situation in relation to the closure of their bank accounts, and at which was also raised the controversy around them and their relationship with the then President, Jacob Gedleyihekisa Zuma. One of them arrived for the meeting and I think it was Tony Gupta. At this meeting, held during April 2016, various issues were discussed, including the closure of the bank accounts of one of their businesses Oakbay. Tony Gupta made a presentation on their business model and detailed their various businesses, including those in the mining and media sectors. One of the issues that I raised at that meeting was the landing of 747 Jumbo Jet at the Waterkloof Airforce Base in 2013. I stated that they had, through their actions, placed the former President in an invidious position. Tony Gupta's reaction was that permission for the plane to land had been obtained and given by the Indian High Commissioner.
- 5. As regards African Global Operations, previously known as Bosasa, I wish to highlight the following:
 - 5.1. I have been advised that Mr Angelo Aggrizzi worked for Grantham Catering, a subsidiary of the Molope Group. Grantham Catering specialised in providing catering services on the mines. I worked for the Molope Group of companies, and thereafter Rebserve (which bought the relevant portions of Molope), from 1999 to 2003. Prior to that I was Chair of the Molope Group from 1996. I understand that Mr Aggrizzi left the employ of Grantham Catering in 1997. It is entirely possible that I may have interacted with Mr Aggrizzi at the time but I have no recollection of having done so. In addition,

in my work with the Molope Group, the company would have been in direct competition with Bosasa at the time. I may therefore have interacted with Bosasa directors or employees at the time or been at the same events as them. However I have no personal recollection of any such interactions.

5.2. I am advised that Mr Gavin Watson and Mr Trevor Mathenjwa attended one of the Back-to-School parties organised by the Adopt-A-School Foundation and hosted by myself as a fundraising event as guests of Dahau Technology, a Chinese company that provides video surveillance products and services. The Adopt-A-School Foundation is a non-profit company which implements a 'Whole School Development' model with the committed support of private sector partners. It hosts annual fundraising functions since 2007 known as Back-to-School parties, at which money is raised for disadvantaged schools. It is one of the implementing partner entities through which the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation ("CRF") delivers its mandate. CRF is an independent public benefit organisation that aims to improve lives by creating opportunities through education and enterprise development. CRF's vision is to be an innovative and effective agent of social and economic change focused on improving lives and creating opportunities in the communities it serves. Registered as a trust and public benefit organisation, CRF operates in the key areas of education, entrepreneurship, youth development, women and children, social cohesion and nation building. My role in CRF is limited to that of a Board member and I am not involved in the management and operations of the trust. The day-to-day operations are managed by an executive management team, supported by a staff complement across the partner entities of 133 people. The partner entities such as the Adopt-A-School Foundation have

independent boards on which the CRF has representation. Dahau had contributed R55,000 as a donation to the Adopt-A-School Foundation by buying a table at the dinner fundraising event which was held on 14 October 2017 (by buying a table they were entitled to bring 10 persons to attend the event). To my knowledge, no donation was ever made to the Foundation by Bosasa.

- 5.3. I have been informed that both Mr Watson and Mr Mathenjwa attended the wedding of my son Andile on 4 August 2018 in Uganda. Over a 1000 people attending this event including between 150 and 200 guests who flew from South Africa for the occasion. I have no recollection of any interaction with them at that event.
- 5.4. Mr Watson and some of his siblings were actively involved in the United Democratic Front in their home town of Port Elizabeth so it is entirely possible I may have met him or interacted with him in that context decades ago, though I have no personal recollection of ever doing so.
- 5.5. Lastly, sometime in July or August 2016, I took a tour of the call centre at which volunteers were assisting the ANC in its campaign in the local government elections. This call centre was situated at the headquarters of the Bosasa offices. I remember interacting there with ANC volunteers and party officials but may well have also interacted with Bosasa employees that were present at the premises at the time. I had no knowledge at the time of the source of funding for this centre as these matters were the purview of the elections team.
- 5.6. Other than the above, I have not to my knowledge had any interactions or meetings with any of its directors, former directors, employees or former employees, nor have

I had any interactions or meetings with any of the directors or former directors of its subsidiaries or employees or former employees. I cannot be sure of the identities of all persons that have ever worked for Bosasa or its subsidiaries.

6. I trust that the above will be of use to the Commission of Inquiry. I remain at its disposal should it require any further information that will assist it in fulfilling its mandate.

MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

I hereby certify that the deponent declares that the he knows and understands the contents of this affidavit and that it is to the best of the deponent's knowledge both true and correct. This affidavit was signed and sworn to before me at MAHIAMBA ADOPTU on this Old day of July 2019 and the Regulations contained in Government Notice R1258 of 21 July 1972, as amended, have been complied with.

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

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