



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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20 June 2022

The Federal Bureau of Investigations Pretoria Field Office

Dear Sirs,

RE: INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS OF POSSIBLE MONEY LAUNDERING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- 1. We refer to the above matter and to our moral obligation to draw your attention to the recent happenings in the local South African news relating to the theft of money at the farm of the President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa ("the President").
- 2. It has recently come to light that, during or about February 2020, an orchestrated burglary occurred at Phala Phala, the farm of the President. It has been alleged that approximately \$4 million (four million United States Dollars) in cash had been stolen from the farm which had been hidden in various pieces of furniture. Despite such a large amount of cash being stolen, the burglary was never reported by the President to local law enforcement, and it has been alleged that an 'off the record' private investigation was conducted to find the perpetrators. It is further alleged that these perpetrators were then paid off by the President to remain silent.
- 3. A criminal case has already been opened with the South African Police Service against the President on possible charges of money laundering (due to the suspicious amount of cash held in USD) and contraventions of various fiscal, currency and exchange control and custom and excise laws and regulations. We attach hereto a copy of an affidavit by one Mr Arthur Fraser, who was the original complainant in this saga.
- 4. However, our concern is that the monies stolen from the farm may have originally come from possibly unlawful and/or nefarious activities from both a national and/or international source. The rationale for our concerns is based on the following:
 - 4.1. In terms of US Customs and Border Protection, any amount of currency transported in or out of the United States which is more than \$10 000 (ten thousand dollars), must be declared by filing a Report of International Transportation of Currency or Monetary Instruments (Currency and Foreign Transaction Reporting Act (PL 97-258, 31 U.S.C. 5311, et seq));
 - 4.2. It is not possible to withdraw such large sums of USD within South Africa, nor is it the official currency of the country;

- 4.3. The President has stated that the \$4 million was generated from wild game auctions on the farm. There must be a level of suspicion raised in transactions that involve a foreign currency being paid over in cash for an auction taking place within South Africa.
- 4.4. Given that the theft had been allegedly covered up, we do not believe that, if the original source of the funds was from within the United States of America, the proper declarations were made as per point 4.1 above; and
- 4.5. Lastly, the act of hiding \$4 million in cash inside furniture on a remote farm would not ordinarily be associated with lawful commercial activities, let alone the conduct of a President of a country.
- 5. As the President has not been open with those people or entities who had paid him in USD, and given the suspicious amount of USD that had been found tucked inside furniture, we cannot be certain that this money has not come from a nefarious source within the USA and as such we request your offices to consider conducting an investigation into the source of funds and ascertain if the money was brought into the country legitimately, was above board and was declared to the appropriate authorities.
- 6. It is our recommendation that the ledgers or journals which would have recorded the alleged sale of wild game at auction be requested from the President in order to ascertain the identities of those involved in the suspicious cash transactions.
- 7. We thank you for your consideration in this matter. Should you have any questions or queries we would be happy to provide further assistance therein.

Your sincerely

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John Steenhuisen MP Leader of the Official Opposition Parliament of RSA