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Questions to the Premier

Michael Mpfu <Michael.Mpfu@westerncape.gov.za>
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Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 5:04 PM

Dear Craig,

Please see the Premier's responses below:

1. Please feel free to comment generally or specifically on any matters raised in my correspondence with Mr Fisher.

A decision on the Tafelberg property by Cabinet is still pending, and will be informed by the public submissions and our constitutional responsibility to balance our various mandates. I reject outright any assertion that the decision will not be taken on this basis.

2. On what date did he become your special advisor?

17 June 2014.

3. Did he declare his involvement in CapitalGro the time?

Soon after he became my special adviser, I was alerted to the fact that there may be potential for a conflict with his private business interests, so I asked him to submit a declaration of interests. He did so, and the declaration included his CapitalGro interests. My subsequent legal advice was that I should be sure to circumscribe Mr Fisher's role purely to the work he was doing on the Better Living Model Game Changer (based on the Conradie site described below), which had been my priority from the start, and which I subsequently formalised to avoid any possible conflict of interest.

After ascertaining that he had no private interests anywhere near the Conradie site, I limited his advisory role to the various complex facets around developing a viable new housing model on the site.

4. I understand he was to advise you on urban regeneration but following legal advice his role was limited to the Conradie project. On what date was his role limited? What was the legal advice?

Yes, see above. At the time of his initial employment here, a Delivery Support Unit was still being established in my office with a Private Public Partnership Housing Model (intended for the Conradie site) as one of our "game changers". Following the necessary preparation, the Conradie site had been proposed as a joint game changer between province and city in August 2014, with Mr Fisher tasked as a lead coordinator in this regard.

5. Noting the apparent conflicts of interest and the "revolving door" (of public and private sector interests) explained in my email to Mr Fisher, what steps did you take to mitigate against any conflicts in his role as your advisor?

I took legal advice and acted upon it. I was assured that my actions, and the limits placed on the ambit of Mr Fisher's role, excluded any possibility of a conflict of interests. I was keen to maintain his advisory and leadership services in this pivotal Conradie Game Changer, because of his specific expertise, which has seen this project make significant progress in a short time.

Regards,

Michael Mpofu

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