

Glynnis Underhill

Mail & Guardian

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Statement by Kate Painting

There has been much speculation about my resignation and I feel the time has come to set the record straight.

When the Commission's work commenced in earnest I was one of two legal professionals. We were virtually tasked with setting up the Commission. I went on fact-finding trips overseas and initially believed we would fulfil our mandate; another agenda soon emerged as did an obsessive control of information, family relationships and incompetent administration. Fear is a common theme at the Commission and any non-compliance with the second agenda is met with hostility.

Despite remaining silent, I have been ostracised by certain members of the legal fraternity. I shall essentially have to rebuild my career but feel it is time for South Africans to reflect and speak out. I feel I have a duty to expose the truth.

I immensely respect Judge Legodi and his decision to leave. One wonders how much credibility is left at the Commission. Tax-payers are funding the Commission and it should be honest about seeking an extension.

Ethics and integrity should guide any process. Without these key values no equitable outcome is likely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kate Painting', with a stylized, somewhat abstract shape to the right of the name.

Kate Painting

Attorney and former Principal Legal Researcher to the Arms Procurement Commission

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