

6 June 2016

THE DAILY MAVERICK
c/o The Editor

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Dear Sirs

PUBLISHED ARTICLE DATED 29 MAY 2016 - AMABHUNGANE: HOW DENEL WAS HIJACKED

This letter is being directed to you pursuant to the aforesaid article that was published in the Daily Maverick on Sunday 29th May 2016.

Insofar as your article relates to me and the allegations contained therein, I wish to categorically state the following:

1. I was not and could never have been privy to the process of appointing the new Denel Board members nor have I met any one or more of them prior to a formal announcement by Denel's shareholder. My first meeting with the Board members was at the Denel Board meeting that was held at the offices of Denel Land Systems during July 2015. The allegation that I told colleagues that I "*had been interacting with certain members of the new board three months before the new board members' appointment*" is wholly denied.
2. Your article states that "*Neither of these claims could be independently verified as neither the Denel board nor the executives responded to questions.*" I wish to place on record that although I was travelling abroad, I was available both telephonically and via email. There was no contact or attempt to contact me by your establishment in order to provide to me an opportunity to respond to the unsubstantiated claims.
3. Your article goes further to state that "*Burger is alleged to have told colleagues about a number of visits he made to Saxonwold to see the Guptas and to have expressed the view that the Guptas opened doors in India and provided very high level contacts. Neither he nor the Gupta's spokesperson responded to the questions about this claim.*"

The allegations contained in this statement are refuted as false as I have never been to Saxonwold to visit the Guptas and neither was I contacted by your

publication and given an opportunity to respond to the unfounded allegations contained in the article.

The article has caused severe and possible irreparable damage to my reputation, which is founded on, inter alia, integrity, honesty and accountability.

I hereby request that the above allegations, all of which appear to be based on hearsay evidence, be retracted immediately. I trust that as a responsible publication, you will rectify the inaccuracies that have been brought to your attention.

Yours faithfully
Mr. Stephan Burger
(In my Personal Capacity)