



STATEMENT R5/21

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE MONITORING AND ADVOCACY OF GOVERNMENT PENSIONS. (AMAGP)

Cape Town
4 April 2021

What is really going on in the Surve / Sekunjalo stable? How safe are workers' and pensioners' monies in his companies?

Recent media articles such as **ABSA cuts ties with Surve's Sekunjalo, AmaBhungane reports** has caused a lot of anxiety among government pensioners. The reference to the Guptas as follows is really frightening: 'Anything media mogul Survé touches is anathema to one of South Africa's big four banks - the same bank that led to the change in cutting off the Gupta family from the banking system in 2016.'

We know where the Guptas are now. This raises an immediate question about the security of the huge amounts of government employees and civil service pensioners' savings that the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) has entrusted to these Iqbal Survé-linked companies.

Many perturbing things have happened since the PIC, on behalf of the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) got involved with Dr Surve's companies, be it Independent Media (Sekunjalo Investment Holdings) or AYO Technology Solutions.

As court cases regarding transactions between the PIC on behalf of the GEPF and Survé's companies, are pending and because these matters are therefore, perhaps *sub judice*, we at AMAGP are careful not to comment on them.

The facts about the investment in Independent Media remain a matter of concern for our members who are watching attempts to recover the more than R1 billion invested in this company closely.

It is also not necessary to repeat the negative conclusions reached the Mpati Commission on the R4,3 billion investment by the PIC in AYO when, at the listing date in December 2017 the shares were R43 per share while by 23 October 2019 the share price had dropped to R5 - a decrease in value per share of 87%.

We issued a statement recently declaring our displeasure and concern about Dr Survé and his companies being invited to state their case at a meeting of parliament's Standing Committee on Finance (SCoF) while court cases are pending. During this meeting Dr Survé and his senior executives made no attempt to counter the adverse findings against them by the Mpati Commission.

Instead, they took 90 minutes to praise themselves and to claim victimisation without providing evidence of why they alone, of all the media companies in the country, should be the target of financial sabotage. Their presentation was correctly described by the participating MPs as unsubstantiated conspiracy theories.

It is disappointing that the Minister of Finance, Mr. Tito Mboweni and the PIC did not use this meeting to provide a report on their progress in implementing the Mpati Commission recommendations on sanctioning the Iqbal Survé companies.

This appearance by Dr Survé and his executives at SCoF happened at the suggestion of the Minister of Finance, Mr. Tito Mboweni who is also the Minister responsible for the GEPP and the PIC. This smacks of political interference.

What also concerns AMAGP is that the court dates for the two PIC court applications against Sekunjalo Independent Media and AYO have not been provided.

We are assured, with no evidence being provided, that the PIC has implemented 60% of the remedial recommendations the Mpati Commission made, including those made with regard to Iqbal Survé and his companies.

To add to our discomfort, we have now become aware that ABSA, for fear of further reputational damage, has closed the bank accounts of 24 companies directly or indirectly controlled by Iqbal Survé.

Obviously, many questions now arise in the context of the ABSA decision: How safe is money invested in these companies and can the PIC be trusted to recover the money owed to the GEPPF?

We need to know what steps the Board of Trustees is taking to prevent further losses of Government Employees Pension Fund money.

Will they keep contributors to the GEPPF informed or will they continue to ignore our fears?

END

Adamus P. Stemmet (AP)
Spokesman AMAGP
0823209245
0891580225
adamusp2602@gmail.com