



Leaked Conversation Transcript

CLASSIFIED // FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Document ID: ZULU-GATE/2025/03/ALPHA

Date Logged: March 14, 2025

Source: Intercepted mobile call (encrypted bridge line)

Participants:

A: Senior Advisor (Unnamed)

B: Communications Director (Tshepo Nkosi)

Transcript partially reconstructed. Audio quality: Moderate. Redacted for operational security.

 TRANSCRIPT BEGINS

[00:00]

(Call connects – background noise: faint traffic, soft jazz music)

A: “You saw the latest poll? We’re bleeding support in the northern provinces. They don’t trust him.”

B: “He’s done nothing wrong. His crime is speaking with a Malawian lilt while sitting in Pretoria?”

A: “It’s not about guilt. It’s about optics. When fuel prices spiked, people needed someone to blame who wasn’t them. Khumo walks into a room like he owns it, but does he know how much that unsettles certain circles?”

B: “He speaks isiZulu better than half the cabinet. Grew up in Soweto. Married a local. You’re telling me none of that counts?”

A: “Of course it counts. But perception moves faster than truth. Right now, the story isn’t “rising star.” It’s “Who does he answer to?””

[00:48]

(Pause. Paper rustling)

B: “So what do you want me to do? Leak something? Fabricate ties to Blantyre?”

A: “I’m not asking you to lie. Just... stop correcting the narrative. Let the whispers breathe. There was that meeting in Gaborone, why was he there without protocol clearance?”

B: "Family funeral. His cousin died. You know this."

A: "Then why didn't we issue a statement? Silence reads like secrecy. And those audio clips from last month, the one where he says "South Africa could learn from Malawi's land reform", that's already circulating on Telegram."

B: "Taken out of context. He was making a comparative policy point."

A: "Exactly. That's the beauty of it. No need to invent lies. Just amplify the gaps between intent and interpretation."

[01:36]

B: "And Lerato? She'll speak up. She always does."

A: "Dr. Mokoena has integrity. Dangerous quality in politics. If she defends him too loudly, frame her as compromised. "Blind loyalty." "Emotional over reason." Question whether her health reports were truly independent."

B: "That's going after his wife."

A: "No. I'm protecting national unity. One misstep, and we have another #XenophobiaWave like in '19. Better he steps down gracefully than burns in public."

B: "Graceful resignation or quiet erasure, same outcome."

A: "History only remembers the fall, not how softly they asked him to kneel."

(Call ends at 02:15 – no further data recovered)