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MINISTRY OF  
HOME AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Q1: Noting the above, do you not agree that a VFS contract at this point would be illegal?**

At no stage did the Auditor-General declare the VFS contract illegal. Rather, the AG raised the question that the tender ought to be a Public Private Partnership (PPP) because the Department is not paying any money to VFS.

**Q2. Did you know the history and background of the VFS tender?**

Yes, since the Minister assumed office, he acquainted himself with VFS tender.

**3. Since the information has been in the public domain, how did VFS get this evergreen tender?**

At no stage did VFS get an evergreen tender from the department. There were several attempts by the Department of Home Affairs to appoint a transactional advisor on the specifications for the PPP tender as required by the AG, unfortunately all the attempts were up to now unsuccessful.

**4. Do you agree that it was illegal for the VFS to continue with this contract given the information we all know?**

It was definitely not illegal to continue with the contract as the recommendations of the AG were not yet met by the Department of Home Affairs. The Department made several attempts to meet the AG's requirements. The first attempt was unsuccessful as none of the candidate transactional advisors was able to meet the requirements. The second attempt was that the appointed transactional advisor was found to have been involved in some illegal activities and the contract was cancelled by the Department.

**5. Why would VFS even be considered given that the parliamentary portfolio committee has declared the tender illegal?**

The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs has never declared the VFS contract illegal. Perhaps the issue of illegality might be confused with the fact that the AG raised a concern that the tender ought to be a PPP as there is no money paid by the Department to VFS.

**6. In light of President Cyril Ramaphosa's fight against Corruption and State Capture would you agree that corruption is ensuing at the DHA with regard to the VFS contract?**

There is absolutely no corruption in the VFS tender, because this is not your normal tender since VFS claims no money from the government. Instead, VFS is paid directly by clients who utilise their services. The charge to the clients includes printing services which is then paid over to the Department by VFS.

**7. We are informed that there are a lot of kick-backs and bribes to DHA officials with regard to the VFS tender. Is this true? If so who was the person who offered or gave the kick-back?**

The Department of Home Affairs is not aware of any kickbacks paid by VFS to its officials. And, if indeed that is the case, we will welcome any person or institution presenting credible information in this regard, as DHA has zero tolerance for corruption. The recent report presented to the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs by the multi-disciplinary team appointed by the Department bears testimony to this zero tolerance to corruption. Recently, the Department requested the President to issue a proclamation for the Special Investigative Unit to probe maladministration, malfeasance and corruption into the issuance of visas.

**8. Minister Aaron Motsoaledi is said to be meeting with VFS to ensure that the extension is granted. Is this true?**

At no stage has the Minister ever met with VFS Global and has never been involved in the tender issued to VFS. The extension of the tender is the matter dealt with by the Director-General and his officials and has nothing to do with the Minister. Should any individual or media house publish these unsubstantiated allegations, they should provide credible proof of the said allegations.

We demand that these responses be published.

**Thabo Mokgola, 060 962 4982 (Spokesperson for the Minister of Home Affairs)**

**ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**