

## *Court clears Cele on 2012 'shady' property case*

### **Citizen reporter**

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The High Court in Pretoria has set aside former president Jacob Zuma's decision to fire then national police commissioner Bheki Cele after a report by the public protector and a board of inquiry found adversely against him.

The board of inquiry's report was the reason offered by Zuma in 2012 for why he was releasing Cele.

Cele is now police minister, this after making a return to the forefront of government

and ANC politics by supporting the rise of President Cyril Ramaphosa.

In 2012, a board of inquiry found that Cele had acted in a questionable manner in relation to two lease deals for the SA Police Service. It found Cele had an undeclared conflict of interest and was dishonest in dealing with the leases.

Former public protector Thuli Madonsela had also found in 2011 that Cele appeared to be guilty of improper conduct and maladministration when the police entered into a R500 million lease for the Sanlam

Middestad Building in Pretoria, which was the first of the deals the board of inquiry examined.

Madonsela recommended that the lease involving departments of police and public works with property magnate Roux Shabangu's Roux Property Fund needed to be declared invalid.

Cele's spokesperson yesterday said he had always maintained his innocence and that he should never have been fired.

Cele also thanked his supporters for backing him during his seven-year legal battle to clear his name.