

NATION

Naturalisation saga was used to force me out – Malusi Gigaba

SIHLE MAVUSO sihle.mavuso@inl.co.za
& **BALDWIN NDABA** baldwin.ndaba@inl.co.za

FORMER minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba, said the Gupta naturalisation saga was used to force him out of his plum ministerial job. However, Gigaba was happy that the report issued by the Office of the Public Protector yesterday and read out by deputy Public Protector, advocate Kholeka Gcaleka, “cleared” him of wrongdoing.

Gigaba, who now works for the ANC policy unit in Johannesburg, was reacting to a report which found that most of the wrongdoing lay with senior staff of the department.

“I take this opportunity to welcome the report of the Public Protector which clears me of the unfounded allegations which were partly relied upon to hound me out of government in November 2018. I shall not be commenting further on the contents of this report until I have consulted with my lawyers,” Gigaba said.

While the report cleared him of some wrongdoing, it lambasted him for failing to submit a list of all people naturalised under exceptional circumstances.

The investigation followed two complaints lodged by DA MP Haniff Hoosen and EFF MP Floyd Shivambu. Shivambu alleged that Gigaba abused the provisions of the South African Citizenship Amendment Act to grant his acquaintances, the Gupta family, early naturalisation.

During the course of the investigation, the Public Protector observed that Naledi Pandor was Minister of Home Affairs from 2012 to 2014, while Gigaba served as Minister of Home Affairs from 2014 to 2017 and from February 27, 2018 until his resignation on November 13, 2018.

She noted with concern that in the period 2013 to 2017 both Pandor and Gigaba failed to comply with the provisions of the South African Citizenship Act.

“The information obtained during the investigation indicates that the former minister exercised his discretion in terms of section 5(9) of the act, to waive the requirements set out in section 5(1)(c), following him taking into consideration the motivation submitted by officials of the department, who were responsible for processing the early

To page 2