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26 November 2026

Councillor Mpumelelo Moyo
Ward 26
Bulawayo City Council

Dear Councillor Moyo,

**RE: CITE FACT-CHECK ARTICLE AND YOUR SUBSEQUENT CONDUCT**

I write in response to your complaints regarding the fact-check published by the Centre for Innovation and Technology (CITE) concerning your reported acquittal on bribery charges, as well as your subsequent communication with myself and the CITE Editor.

Firstly, CITE stands by its article and its findings. The fact-check established that you had not been acquitted of bribery charges but had been granted bail pending appeal. The article expressly acknowledges that the reinstatement of your bail cleared the way for you to resume your duties as a councillor.

At no point did CITE state that you had not resumed your duties or that you were prohibited from doing so. Your complaint appears to arise from a misunderstanding of the fact-check and its verdict. CITE therefore rejects your accusations that it deliberately misled the public, published fake news or conducted a personal campaign against you.

Secondly, we are deeply concerned by the nature and tone of your communication with CITE management and editorial staff. In particular, we take exception to:

Your allegation that CITE journalists receive money to write stories, as stated in your message: “Obviously your boys get money to write these stories.”

Your insulting and disrespectful communication directed at the CITE Editor.

Your allegation that the Editor was paid by Councillor Mxolisi Mhlangu

The repeated accusations that CITE deliberately publishes false information and is personally targeting you.

These serious allegations call into question the professional integrity of our journalists, the independence of our newsroom, and the reputation of CITE as a media organisation.

We therefore request that you provide credible evidence substantiating your allegations of payment to our journalists and the Editor. In the absence of such evidence, we expect you to unequivocally withdraw these allegations and issue a written apology to CITE and the Editor.

As an elected public official, you are entitled to challenge our reporting and seek redress where you believe an error has been made. However, that entitlement does not justify abusive communication, personal insults or unsubstantiated allegations of journalistic corruption.

CITE has established editorial structures through which complaints can be addressed. My decision to refer you to the Editor was consistent with these structures and our commitment to editorial independence.

CITE will not allow personal relationships, political pressure, intimidation or abusive conduct to influence its editorial decisions. We will continue to report on matters of public interest and hold public officials accountable without fear or favour.

We remain open to constructive and professional engagement. However, we expect all future communication with CITE management and staff to be respectful and conducted through the appropriate channels.

CITE reserves all its legal rights in respect of any defamatory allegations made against the organisation or its employees.

For the record, this letter will be made public, just like you shared in a public what's App group the screen shots message between you and me

Yours sincerely,

Zenzele Ndebele
Director
Centre for Innovation and Technology (CITE)

