



AZAPO
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

19 September 2023

MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE REFUSAL BY VODACOM TO PAY APPROPRIATE SETTLEMENT TO THE INVENTOR OF THE "PLEASE CALL ME" CONCEPT, MR NKOSANA MAKATE

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL – AZAPO

The Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO) is disgusted at the belligerent attitude of Vodacom and its refusal to settle at an appropriate amount with the inventor of "Please Call Me", Mr Nkosana Makate. Despite its initial denial that Mr Makate was the inventor of the concept, Vodacom was found to have been dishonourable by a court of law that declared Mr Makate as the inventor.

As AZAPO, we find it bizarre that Vodacom would offer a paltry R47 Million against a legitimate claim of Billions by Mr Makate. It demonstrates how Vodacom sees itself as an untouchable giant that can just ride roughshod over a Black person like he is nothing. This attitude is consistent with the anti-Black sentiment that continues to manifest in this country. We strongly believe that if Mr Makate was white this matter would have been laid to rest a long time ago.

AZAPO calls on Vodacom to treat Mr Makate with respect and honour the court judgement or face dire consequences. We call on Vodacom to pay Mr Makate the 15% of revenue that he claims from the proceeds of his concept.

We give Vodacom 30 days to settle the matter or we will mobilise other stakeholders and civil society against them. We also call on government to start thinking carefully about their continued use of Vodacom services. Until Mr Makate is paid what is due to him it cannot be business as usual for Vodacom. We are tired of how these capitalist entities continue to abuse Black people even under the so-called "new dawn".

End

ISSUED BY THE AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION – AZAPO

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