

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUDIO WITH CHANDRE ABRAHAMS - FORMER PORTFOLIO MANAGER

CA	Wow. Okay. I am gonna put it this way Mario. I dunno what's happening. When I was there, everything was extremely legit.
CA	I could not, I could not handle, I could not handle the fact that I was being harassed. I could not handle the fact that I was called by private investigators, police officers, I had to get a lawyer.
MB	Is that the, is that the De Swart guy?
CA	Sorry?
MB	Is that, sorry I'm is that the De Swart?
CA	Yes, yes.
MB	He's a he a criminal man, He is a bloody criminal.

CA	Oh my word, and then also I've been getting calls from a lady. I had, I went, I had, There is an inquiry for Darren at the moment. With the, with the, with the Commercial Crimes Unit.
MB	Okay
CA	So I was called in, I was called in to give a testament and a statement and the police officer that's working with a case, insisted I give a statement.
MB	But.
CA	And my lawyer is saying to me, you can't give, you can give a statement, but you can't, you can't fabricate information.
MB	Ja ja.
CA	Because you worked there, and everything was legit so what are you gonna fabricate.
MB	What they are trying to do, Chandre neh, and this is where the position, I got myself into kak because I listened to them and then they took me to some bloody dodgy house in Parklands neh, They had a vehicle pick me up. and when I was.
CA	Who was this?
MB	Um, the forensic, these people. Paula's people, and everyone.
CA	No way... Oh my word.
MB	And they took me to that house neh, and I, I swear to God, I've got goosebumps thinking of it. They had a statement and, they made me sign it and threatened me that if I don't sign it, they will make sure that I'm implicated in the matter and I will also be imprisoned.
MB	And at that very same house, they were talking about, um, tying Darren up in that house and torturing him.
MB	And pulling out nails with pliers and all such kak.
CA	Oh, my word. You've been, you've been through more than what I have been through.
MB	Ya. And.
CA	I have had, I have had I basically from my, from my side, I have just been through a whole lot of emotional stuff because of all the emotional abuse.
MB	Ja.
CA	And all of the blackmailing.
MB	Ja.
CA	And my lawyer is saying to me none of these things (the investigation) sound legit.
MB	No it's not.
CA	None of these things, So how did you discover this (the investigation) is not legit?
MB	So, so, what happened was,
CA	Paula's telling,
MB	What happened was...
CA	Paula phoned me even.
MB	Yeah. The thing is like, like I said, everything has run legit and it still runs legitimately because, I mean, I work with the, the channels. I work with Booking.com, I see the money that that comes in I the pay bills.
CA	I think the only thing, the concern, the only concern I think Mario, is the fact that I'm not sure what his visa says if his visa says he, has a working permit or he can run a business, then I think that was the big thing.
MB	Ya, Because what happened is when I started working here, we, that's why we set up an entire new company. So Darren actually doesn't work. Because, with his visa, there are some rules and things you know that he needs to abide by.

MB	Am I finding myself and what the Plan B going forward. And honestly speaking I think 99% of the time. He's, he's, he's not angry with you. He's, he's, he's sad um to see that everything you guys have built up have gone to waste.
CA	Which is very sad.
MB	That is very sad, and the fact that, that none of it, I actually, I've got goosebumps. The fact that everyone left and nobody tried to save the business. And I don't know, um
CA	I think everybody left because of what was happening,
MB	Ja, ja.
CA	The threats, the police, the detectives, imagine, you getting calls from a detective. This is simply different to,
MB	No, no for sure.
CA	To, from a private investigator.
MB	Ja, Ja.
CA	Then I get messages, I was told, literally, I was told that I, I was now made a witness.
MB	They locked you up,
CA	Almost like if I'm not becoming a witness and I am saying, how can I witness to something that was legit?
MB	Oh my.
CA	I'm not doing a statement. How can I, what witness am I gonna be to something that, I don't know anything that has went wrong?
MB	Oh my God,
CA	That was my question.
MB	They, they did exactly the same to me.
MB	That's what they did They said to me, if you don't sign this statement, we will make sure that you'll be, held accountable as an accomplice. And If you sign it, we will protect you because you will be a state witness.
MB	And to be the, to tell you the honest truth, Chandre, I'm currently working with, Alan Winde, with, IPID, the, the Provincial and the National Head of SAPS, the big guys and Camps Bay Police Station tried to shoot me the, this week when I tried to go and open up a case of intimidation against Paula and, Peter.

CA	I've never, ive never given them any information because there is nothing to give.
CA	What do I give them?
CA	I must do a statement and they will protect me.
CA	That's what they said
MB	That's what, that's what they did to me. And then you, and I'm, I'll send you screenshots of this. Listen to this.
	So then I signed this statement, and then I, after they were talking about murdering and torturing him, that's when I thought, oh fuck, what did I get myself into?
	So that's when I started worrying and, and that's when I saw these guys.
CA	So who, so who sent these guys, Did you deal with a lady Bernette?
MB	Bernette aha
CA	Now, Bernette is apparently from the Commercial Crimes Unit.
MB	Okay.
CA	And she's, apparently, she's apparently the person that, that has been dealing with my lawyer, and she's in the police force, she's formulating a case, and she's the one that insisted, she's the one that saying,
	I must do statement, or I will get investigated.
MB	Ag man, you must tell her to go and bloody play with a, a doll on the, on the beach.
	What, Listen to this, what happened to me, neh. So after I signed that statement, they obviously had me cornered in a property that I've never been to, they escorted me there and I was surrounded by all of these bloody snakes.
	And you know what they did afterwards, they said to me they're gonna, come to the property that following Thursday, they will go to Darren's room and get the dogs out and they will start torturing him.
	And they'll call me in to take, possession of his laptop and his phone and I should go onto his phone and I should go onto every single app I should transfer every single cent I can find in any bank accounts to their trust account. And I said, what do you want to do with the money? And they said, no, they're gonna give it back to people that is being scammed. And then after that, I thought to myself, this is a kak story, they are fucking criminals. And then what they did was ...
CA	Oh is that the, that's when you realised that this is not lekker?
MB	Ja. So then I ran away,...
CA	How did you get away?
MB	And then when I ran away No, I disappeared, in the middles of like in the, they all went to bed and whatever, and my bags were paced, Fok. I went down that elevator, jumped in an Uber and I fucked off.
	So I went to hide somewhere in Cape Town in a hotel for a couple of days. And then they, those, private investigators and bodyguards also withdrew because, I mean, I did do business payments if they're not gonna get paid any further. But while they were still here, they said to me, okay, now we have this, this, statement again that you signed. So now start, they, forced me to transfer the, the Legends booking money to them.
	I transferred almost R800,000 to them...
CA	[Long Gasp]

MB	And besides that, all the WhatsApps where they threatened me, where they sent voice notes "Ja, today is the day".
CA	Okay. Okay.
MB	I've got everything and I sent it to the lawyer.
CA	And I'm thinking, I'm thinking I'm going through the most.
MB	No.
CA	I got the calls, I am getting from Bernette, the calls I'm getting from, from from I spoke to Paula.
	I thought I get, you've gotten the worst. The threats I'm getting, The threats I'm getting is just, that I must speak.
MB	Who is threatening you, because Paula and Peter is threatening me?
CA	So, so basically, Paula said to me, and Bernette, Bernette who is the police, who is in the police force. She is insisting on a statement [Belville Commercial Crime]
MB	Okay.
CA	She is insisting heavily on a statement.
MB	But you shouldn't, don't do it Chandre, listen to me, don't do it, they will use it against you.
CA	Nooo, I can't do it. I can't do a statement because I can't lie. You can't lie!
MB	Like you said, while you were here, everything was running legitimately.
	So they're now forcing you to do a statement that is not your truth. Don't do it, they will use it against you.
CA	My lawyer told them. But my lawyer told them the same thing. [I cannot help as it was legit and I will not lie and say it was not]
	My lawyer said if she knew about it, if there's something I knew about, I can definitely vouch for it. I was like I know about the messages I got, about somebody that sent, but I said to them, I said my last message to Darren is, I am mad at him and I am angry at him [for badmouthing me after his release],
MB	Ya...
CA	I am frustrated with him, I'm so mad at him, but I said to him, and you know what, you have not done anything wrong to me.
MB	No he didn't, he hasn't, they had him in such a kak state state, like three or four days ago. one night he wanted to run in the middle of the fucking night. He, he grabbed the dogs and tried to, he couldn't find the leashes and fucking took speaker wire and stuff to put them on leashes to run away. So he's so scared. These people are criminals. Criminals. Criminals
CA	Sho. Oh my...so so so
MB	They're the, they're the pits and everything. You try, I, I called Paula Last week and I said to her, listen, please remove this kak on the internet. You don't know me from a bar of soap. I've never met you. And then I said to her if you really wanna meet me? Let's meet for coffee somewhere where you feel safe.
CA	There's messages that went through everybody I know that sent messages about Darren, everybody sent me screenshots. Look here, they, they just followed the page and they would get these messages.

CA	GASP...Yoh! How many of these people are on their payroll?
MB	I'm telling you? they are having a finger in the pie everywhere, Chandre. But if you wanna protect yourself, girl, trust me, don't give them anything because they will use it against you.
CA	No. They have they have not made contact with since, [my lawyer threatened to report their crimes]
	No, they have not made contact with me since three weeks ago, because my lawyer said, I'm not doing a statement, don't, and the reason why my lawyer said I'm not doing a statement is purely because I would do a statement if something was legit wrong.
MB	Ja.
CA	According to me, Nightsbridge told me that Nightsbridge informed them there is nothing on file that has gone wrong at La Collection Prestige .
MB	Yeah, so even, even Nightsbridge confirmed that nothing has gone wrong. That everything they, they're, I'm telling you, Chandre, I don't know what they want neh, but it feels like you are an animal an animal and they all have shotguns hunting you.
CA	But now when you paid the money over them, then they still continued.
MB	Yes. I, I mean, I literally behind Darren's back when he found out, he could've bloody murdered me but he still kept his cool.
	And obviously, I think he, at that moment, he wanted to donner me dik, but he didn't. Um, but he, you know, they were threatening me to send Nigerians to my mom. Who, who's sick? My mom's got cancer. She lives in the Free State on a farm.
CA	[Long Gasp]
MB	They said that they'll send Nigerians to my mom. No, man, these people are, this is next-level shit. Girl ah ha.
CA	But the thing is, what's, what's been happening now is they have given up on me.
	They, they, they, they have left me out of it because I'm not doing a statement and they realised that that I have a lawyer and I'm not going to, basically they've noticed and realized that they're not going do this cause there is nothing they getting out of me, so they left me.
	And since then they have not bothered me. So it's been a month of them not making contact with me.
	Not sending anything to me. And And the great news is that, um, I saw that they removed the page. Did you ask them to remove the page?
MB	They are not going to bully you anymore.
CA	Yeah, well,
MB	I sent them an attorney's letter and then we got a protection order against them. Then the court forced them to take it down.
CA	Okay. Okay.
MB	But I mean, the, but the damage they've caused is, I mean, they fucked up the whole LA Collection. That company is so badmouthed. And people, that company's you know that completely running to the ground.
CA	So, That's, I'm saying. I'm not sure why they still chasing you if they really done all the work.
MB	Ya, That is what I said to Paula on the phone last week, if you have a vendetta girl, and I was cheeky with her because she has never met me, how dare she, as a British citizen, coming to South Africa, our country, and come and treat me like this and threatened me and restrict my freedom to movement?
CA	Shew?
MB	She is a bloody criminal of note man.

MB	No worries, Sorry? Hey
CA	I'm saying, I'm saying that there is nothing for you to find so.
MB	There is nothing. And even in the new company, there's nothing. So, I don't, what do they want? That's what I said to Paula. Let's sit and have coffee and tell me what you want. If you want money to go away, I'll, I don't have it, but I'll try and find it to make you go away, but all I want is peace and safety. And she, and she and she laughed at me over the phone.

CA	So, It has been too much for me. Secondly, I am also now, I have put all my energy and my focus back into my business specifically and I am just focussing on that at the moment.
CA	Um, but I also, I also, I also really think that, I dunno, I dunno, I dunno. Because the thing is, the, the police thing freaked me out because its actually genuine police. You know what I mean?
MB	The thing is, for sure, that is the Hout Bay police, and I can tell you that, that case was uh, Darren won that case about two, three weeks ago. The Wynberg, Pollsmoor one, he won them and he won them on the condition.
CA	Which one was that now?
MB	The one where he got arrested. He won the case and the Judge also put in favour that he was falsely arrested without a warrant, so they are guilty of falsely imprisoning a British citizen and the British Consulate is also now involved. They are going to make big kak with this South African government.
CA	Oh my word.
MB	Ja. And can you believe, Paula stole his first passport, he then got a second one from the British Consulate in Cape Town. She stole that one too. Now she's got both of them.
CA	How?
MB	With the security guards that we had thinking, working for us, working for them.
CA	[Long Gasp]
MB	Stole it. And then Peter still has the audacity to send it to Darren and say, Are you looking for this?
CA	[Long gasp]

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CA	So what are you doing from this point? Because I just want to understand what is happening in the sense where, what is, what is, because I am obviously not making contact with nobody, I nobody can arrest me for no reason.
MB	No, they can't.
CA	Because there is nothing, because there is nothing, so obviously that is something that is non-existent. In your case, what is happening?
MB	So okay, well in my case, remember with the new company that was registered, I was appointed as the director.
CA	Okay.
MB	It's the law, um, requires or expects me to carry the, the, um, the businesses. Um, the business You know, um, interest at heart.
CA	Yes,
MB	At all times, and I have to, at all times do what is best for the business. And at this point in time, that is to, to keep the business open, in order to make sure that staff get paid salaries.
CA	Yes.
MB	And the, the rates and taxes are paid, and bills are paid and X, Y, and Z. And to make sure that people that have booked for accommodation have a place to come to.
CA	Yes.
MB	You know so I'm, I'm, I'm conducting business because I've taken money from people. Um, so I should accommodate them and, you know?
CA	Yes, of course.
MB	So I'm just doing that.
CA	So from a legal perspective, what is happening with the case that they're trying to investigate against you, what are you guys doing with the case they busy fabricating?
MB	So basically that they obviously, you know, trying to find as many witnesses or whatever or create witnesses, I shall say and fabricate nonsense because we have, I have, WhatsApp voice notes and stuff from them where they talk about planting these documents in the house and this and that, so when the cops get here, you know, they will find these things in the house.

CA	Okay. Ag man, I am so happy that you are able to make all these moves to support him and support you and to protect the brand and the business obviously, you know ..
MB	Because I mean, um, you know, they are literally trying to, cause what they're accusing him of. For sure there would be guests standing in front of a property, if they, um, have now gone, um, to the furthestmost extent they could, um, to, to have him in prison to make sure that he's not there to, to when they arrive, you know.
CA	Ja.
MB	So they accuse him of something, but then they, they create that same situation to make it look true.
CA	Now, what about all these people they saying, all these people saying they came forth with cases, saying they need a refund them, what is he going to do about that?
MB	That that is absolute nonsense. They said at first, I think they had 28 people and then later 25 or something. I have a complete list and there's one or two of them. And the only reasons those people were not accommodated during their stay is because of the Keith Drama with the protection orders and the Nigerians, so indirectly, Keith is responsible that we couldn't put those guests in those accommodations because he started, I mean, he's got a contract with Darren in terms of a lease agreement, and, and he has now, uh, taken back that agreement, you know. So Which is illegal. So he, they indirectly are responsible for it. But luckily when we registered the company, I did, um, register, uh, insurance, like business interruption insurance and also, um, partnership insurance with Booking.Com and those,

MB	No. No, No. Hampstons we also sorry got rid of. Legally according to the court order, Darren can walk into that property and actually Lux at any moment because the court has granted that it was illegal eviction attempt and he is lawfully still the occupant of that property but because of the fear because we don't know when they might come in with Nigerians again for safety, for guests and staff, we won't be occupying those properties. I mean, that is what we, you know, we can't take the risk.
CA	Is worse than what I thought it was, hey?
MB	And they're bullshitting everyone now telling everyone like how bad I am and how bad everyone is, I promise you.
CA	Do they know how many sleepless nights they gave me. Do they have any idea?

CA	Yeah, So I was saying, I was saying that even after everything I still said I won't fabricate the statement because I knew it was, he never did anything to me.
	So I can't, I can't fabricate something for some reason that I'm not even aware of. Do you know what I mean?
MB	I mean, all of us are, I mean, I come from, from a very small town in the Free State. You know, our morals are different, yours is different. And I would never be able to live with myself to know that I was part of a fabrication that had someone's life taken and imprisoned for nothing. No. Nee Fok Girl that is hectic. Nee die moffie kak?
CA	Exactly, exactly, exactly, No ... [Laugh] Ja but you, you sound like ball of fun.
MB	[laugh] Jy moet kom kuier and we will have a good glass of hubbly by the pool.
CA	Ek kan nie, kyk ek wil nie kuier nie. [laugh]
MB	Nee man, we will wait for the dust to settle. And then we will make a party I promise and have a lekker spit braai, onse gooi sommer 'n lekker spit braai en baie tequila. Ag shame
CA	Oh, but listen, you tell me quickly, so now that you're saying that you have your own case happening against these people doesn't mean that the inquiry or the case they fabricating does it mean that they can't actually proceed with it because your case actually against that.

[Transcript ends 00:42:17]