

COMMERCIAL BREAK

As I close, on the political front, we welcome the latest developments in Egypt where the President has stepped down voluntarily. At the same time, I've been reliably advised that in this Departmental retreat, we've also had a fair share of what happened at Tahir Square in Cairo. I'm told Commission 2 did not want to be out-classed by these latest political developments.

Unlike in Egypt, where the President surrendered power to a military council, in Commission 2, the Chairperson voluntarily surrendered power to commission members. There was so much organised strategic chaos in this commission, before the transitional arrangement. At one stage, one prominent member of this commission, Mr Jerry Mafrika, a board member at MEGA, initiated his own parallel process and when he realised that he was not getting support from other commission members, he wanted to disown the process and the commission.

He subsequently worked on his own in his own corner. However the membership of the commission rejected this and advised him accordingly, that they will protect the other commissions from him.

On the occasion of the commission reporting in plenary, the same member wanted, again, to pass a disclaimer on the report of the commission. Members advised him rigorously not to pursue the matter unilaterally, but at the end he was the first to commend that it was a good report.

I am also advised, that in plenary session before the presentation by the public entities, there was a heavy debate about accountability structures between the public entities and the department. At one stage, Mr Madoda Maseko and the Chairperson of the MTPA board, Mr Sabelo Mahlalela nearly had a physical confrontation on the matter. The HOD, in a very reconciliatory intervention, made two metaphoric statements and these will stay for a very long time to come.

Quoting the HOD, he said: *“Don’t throw stones when you leave in a glass house.”* I wonder who was throwing stones, and at who? Secondly, he said: *“Once the tail wags the dog violently like it does currently, it means the dog is not in charge.”* I wonder who is the dog?