

Phathiswa Magopena instructed by SABC board member to interview Ramaphosa's wife

By [Ferial Haffajee](#)

28 Feb 2022

SABC board member, Professor Saths Cooper told the SABC editor-in-chief to interview the first lady, Dr Tshepo Motsepe, as a way of sweetening access to President Cyril Ramaphosa, the axed news boss, Phathiswa Magopeni, has revealed.



Source: © SABC [SABC](#)

SABC board member, Professor Saths Cooper told the SABC editor-in-chief to interview the first lady, Dr Tshepo Motsepe, as a way of sweetening access to President Cyril Ramaphosa, the axed news boss, Phathiswa Magopeni, has revealed.

Magopeni was fired in January ahead of a board inquiry into her complaint, which disclosed serious editorial interference by the SABC CEO, Madoda Mxakwe, chairperson, Bongumusa Makhathini, and now Cooper.



SABC fires head of news

29 Jan 2022



In a media statement released on 26 February, Magopeni said that Cooper had messaged her on 2 December 2021. His message said: "Change focus, go for wife on a very different kind of feature; use me as ref [reference] saying I've been pushing you...she knows me from her 1st yr [year] medical sch [school] days. As women are viewers on 1 & 2, it'll be a hit – her life etc." Magopeni said this was an attempt to influence coverage of the President. Cooper added Motsepe's number. "My response was 'Great. Thanks' and I did nothing with it," said Magopeni.