

Zuma's Monday Massacre and the importance of free media



By Stephen Grootes: [@StephenGrootes](#)

26 Oct 2011

It's interesting to note that at a time of increased hostility towards the media in general, and the print media in particular, newspapers would be celebrating one of their greatest victories. It hasn't been put like this yet (and it may still be this Sunday), but surely one of the headlines that could have rung out in the wake of Monday's [series of announcements](#) by President Jacob Zuma is "Sunday Times claims Minister, Police Commissioner"

It was because of newspapers, and the media, that Zuma was put in a position in which he eventually had to act this week. Now would be a good time to evaluate how the battle between hacks (like us) and politicians (like Zuma) is going. Who is really winning this battle in the field of public opinion?

It was that incredible team of Stephan Hofstatter and Mzilikazi wa Afrika [*disclaimer: Grootes is a personal friend of Hofstatter*] that on 1 August last year first broke the news that National Police Commissioner Bheki Cele had been personally involved in arranging the deal for a new police headquarters with Roux Shabangu. Fourteen months later Cele is suspended, and Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde is no longer with us as Public Works minister.

And it's not a story that's necessarily dead yet; the political ramifications of Cele's suspension could linger on for a while.

Continue reading the [full article](#) on www.dailymaverick.co.za.

ABOUT STEPHEN GROOTES: @STEPHENGROOTES

Stephen Grootes is political reporter for Eyewitness News (www.ewn.co.za) and contributing editor for *Business Day* (www.businessday.co.za). He used to write for The Daily Maverick (www.thedailymaverick.co.za). Follow him on Twitter at [@StephenGrootes](#).

- When Twitter met South Africa - a match made in a train smash - 28 Jan 2016
- Mandela in hospital: let the media do their job - 2 Jul 2013
- The fine art of telling 'national importance' from damp squib - 13 Feb 2012
- Press freedom as the ANC sees it - 1 Feb 2012
- Zuma's Monday Massacre and the importance of free media - 26 Oct 2011

[View my profile and articles...](#)

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>