

## Woman apologises to Tumi Sole over ‘false and defamatory allegations’ of rape in Durban hotel

2019-09-23 22:18



### **Tumi Sole. (Twitter)**

A woman who accused lawyer and social media activist Tumi Sole of raping her in a Durban hotel room and giving her HIV has issued a public apology, calling her claims false and defamatory.

Tinah Mashiloane issued the apology on social media following allegations that emerged as part of the outing of alleged sex offenders on Twitter as part of the #AmINext movement following high-profile acts of violence against women in recent weeks.

"The allegations following on several other messages that I had sent to [Sole] in which I had been making threats against him and his family since August 1, 2019. I also created a fake account under Lerato Motsoeneng [@leratoMotsoene8] and repeated these false and defamatory allegations that I made against Mr Sole," her apology read.

She received a lawyer's letter on September 2, and initially denied she had been the one who posted the allegations.

"In this regard, this letter serves as my official admission that I was the one who posted the false and defamatory allegations on @HelpSurvivors2, and I would like to take this opportunity to profusely apologise to Mr Tumi Sole, his entire family, #CountryDuty, the directors of #CountryDuty and the members and supporters of #CountryDuty for the pain and suffering that I have caused everyone.

"I was never at a Durban hotel with [Sole] nor was I ever raped by him."

Mashiloane wrote she had realised her actions "might have derailed some of the necessary work that [Sole] and #CountryDuty have been involved in as part of their contributions to the fight against GBV [gender-based violence] and femicide".

"To this end, I would like to apologise to all South Africans for my actions and undertake to go for counselling and refrain from any further false and defamatory accusations against [Sole] or #CountryDuty.

"I hope South Africans find it in their hearts to forgive me."

The accuser, unknown at the time, had written this about Sole: "Met in Durban. He was there on business. I liked him yes. He invited me to his hotel room. Had drinks. Forced himself on me. I kept saying no. He was so rough with me. He eventually managed to penetrate me. Now I'm taking ARVs because of a selfish, self-absorbed man. I want him to trend until his wife sees this. And I wish for the same to happen to his children. Mr Country Duty yamasimba [sic]."

Sole, at the time, tweeted he had noted the allegations and posted a letter from his attorneys.

"I'm aware of the tweets making the rounds and in reference to me and #CountryDuty. I am pursuing the matter through legal channels. Herewith, a letter from my attorneys below," he said. "[I'm] not going to entertain this further."

The cease and desist letter, addressed to the accuser whose name had been blacked out, said Sole had been receiving threatening emails from the person since August 1, 2019.

"Our client has instructed us that since August 1, 2019, you have been sending him violent and threatening phone messages about ruining his public and private life.

"You have also made allegations that you contracted HIV from him and will disseminate this allegation into the public domain."

Some of the email quotes in the letter read, "I want my money b\*\*ch. Don't drive me nuts", as well as "You're messing with someone who could potentially destroy you".

The letter further stated the person requested money from Sole in a bid to "suppress [them] from carrying out these threats". It also described this as extortion.

The allegations appeared on the Twitter account @HelpSurvivors2.

The document describes the claims as "false, baseless and slanderous in an attempt to bring our client's name into disrepute..."

It calls on the accuser to "cease and desist from directly or indirectly making defamatory remarks about our client, including defamatory and slanderous remarks".

Sole wanted the accuser to stop publishing statements on social media about him, requesting the @HSurvivors2 account to remove the tweets.

On Monday, Sole declined to comment.

*- Compiled by Tammy Petersen*

<https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/woman-apologises-to-tumi-sole-over-false-and-defamatory-allegations-of-rape-in-durban-hotel-20190923>

RE: PUBLIC APOLOGY TO TUMI SOLE AND #COUNTRYDUTY

Dear All

On or around 3 September 2019, under several social media platforms and the twitter handles and hashtags such as @HelpSurvivors2; #AmiNext; and #RapistsAreTrash, I published false and defamatory allegations against Mr Tumi Sole wherein I made accusations that he had forced himself on me at a Durban hotel and that he had infected me with HIV. In the accusations, I mentioned #CountryDuty and its members.

The allegations followed on several other messages that I had sent to Mr Tumi Sole in which I had been making threats against him and his family since 1 August 2019.

I also created a fake account under Lerato Motsoeneng (@leratoMotsoene8) and repeated these false and defamatory allegations that I made against Mr. Sole.

After receiving a letter from Mr Tumi Sole's attorneys on or about 3 September 2019, I initially denied that I was the one that posted the false and defamatory allegations on @HelpSurvivors2. I have now realised the pain that has been caused by my false and defamatory accusations and I have decided to be honest and face the consequences of my actions.

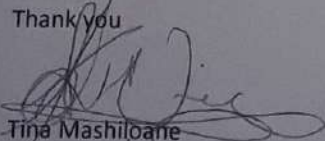
In this regard, this letter serves as my official admission that I was the one that posted the false and defamatory allegations on @HelpSurvivors2, and I would like to take this opportunity to profusely apologise to Mr Tumi Sole, his entire family, #CountryDuty, the Directors of #CountryDuty and the members and supporters of #CountryDuty for the pain and suffering that I have caused everyone.

I was never at a Durban hotel with Mr Tumi Sole nor was I ever raped by him. I have never encountered any of the other members of #CountryDuty or the directors of the organisation and I had a no right to mention them and bring their good work into question.

I realise that my actions might have derailed some of the necessary work that Mr Tumi Sole and #CountryDuty have been involved in as part of their contributions to the fight against GBV and femicide. To this end, I would like to apologise to all South Africans for my actions and undertake to go for counselling and refrain from any further false and defamatory accusations against Mr Tumi Sole or #CountryDuty.

I hope South Africans find it in their hearts to forgive me.

Thank you

  
Tina Mashiloane

23/09/2019