



20 March 2017

Chairperson  
Portfolio Committee – Justice & Correctional Services  
Dr. M.S. Motshekga MP  
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

Electronic message to: [vramaano@parliament.gov.za](mailto:vramaano@parliament.gov.za)

Dear Sir,

**IN RE: SECURITY BREACH AT THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE ON 18 MARCH 2017**

With reference to the above-mentioned matter.

It is with great concern that I heard the reports of the theft of 15 computers containing confidential information from the office of the Chief Justice on Saturday, 18 March 2017. The break-in and theft points to a security breach having occurred in the office of the Chief Justice.

The office of the Chief Justice forms one of the main components of the judicial branch of government. The security breach is deeply concerning and highly suspicious. The theft of confidential information from the office of the highest judicial officer in the country could result in our judiciary being intimidated and/or threatened, leading to a loss of independence. Without an independent and fully capacitated judiciary, our democracy will not be able to properly function.

It is my belief that this committee should call the Minister of Police, the Minister of State Security, and the Minister of Justice to appear before it as a matter of extreme urgency so as to enable the members of this committee to interrogate the events that took place and the measures that are being taken not only to bring to book those responsible but to make sure that a similar security breach does not occur again and our judicial officers are free from the possibility of intimidation and threats. I note our meeting scheduled for Thursday, 23 March 2017 with the office of the Chief Justice, and propose that we use the same time slot for our meeting with the above-mentioned Ministers, due to the great urgency of this matter.

I accordingly request that this committee urgently summons the above-mentioned cabinet ministers to account in this regard.

I trust that you will find the above in order and look forward to your favourable reply.

Regards

[Submitted electronically without signature]

Adv. G. Breytenbach MP

**DA Shadow Minister of Justice**