



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE
OPPOSITION

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Hon B Mbete MP
Speaker of the National Assembly
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

Dear Madam Speaker,

REQUEST FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF PARLIAMENT

I am writing to you to request the immediate resumption of business and that an urgent sitting of the National Assembly be scheduled at the very earliest opportunity.

President Jacob Zuma's reckless decision, communicated late on 30 March, to replace 15 members of Cabinet, including the Minister of Finance and his deputy, Pravin Gordhan and Mcebisi Jonas, has resulted in massive political and economic insecurity. He has caused this entirely avoidable crisis without provided a reasonable explanation for his actions, further fueling speculation about his motivations and intentions.

Considering the significance and impact of the president's actions, it is imperative that Parliament resumes immediately and exercise its oversight function as detailed in Section 55 (2) (b) of the Constitution:

"The National Assembly must provide for mechanisms – to maintain oversight of – (i) **the exercise of national executive authority** ... and (ii) any organ of state."

Parliament has an obligation both to hold the Executive to account and to provide guidance in a time of crisis. As a consequence of the president's actions, Honourable Speaker, we are now faced with such a crisis. As you are keenly aware, the DA tabled a Motion of No Confidence in President Jacob Zuma – in terms of Section 102 of the Constitution – on 30 March. A debate on this motion simply cannot wait. Parliament cannot be seen to be missing in action amidst this tempest. It is incumbent on you to act and to call the people's representatives back for an immediate sitting of the House.

I look forward to your consideration of this request and your favourable response.

Kind Regards

Yours faithfully,

John Steenhuisen MP
Chief Whip of the Official Opposition
Parliament of RSA