



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
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**OPPOSITION**

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20 November 2017

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

Dear Madam Speaker,

**REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT**

I am writing to you in respect of the current investigation into the suspended Secretary of Parliament, Mr Gengezi Mgidlana, and his alleged involvement in maladministration and financial irregularity.

On Thursday, 16 November 2017, it emerged during a sitting of the Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament (the 'Joint Standing Committee'), that the co-chairperson of the Joint Standing Committee, Mr Vincent Smith, had received a copy of an Audit Committee report which contains crucial details on the investigation into Mr Mgidlana.

The fact that only one member received a copy of the Audit Committee's report is wholly inappropriate and also fatally irregular as it undermines well-established parliamentary procedure on handling documents considered confidential. Moreover, it is incongruous that Mr Smith and the African National Congress be placed at an unfair advantage over other members of the Joint Standing Committee by having had sight of this report.

It is manifest that there is a legal duty to provide the Audit Committee report on Mr Mgidlana to all of the members of the Joint Standing Committee so that they can effectively execute their oversight responsibilities. In this regard, section 49 of the Financial Management of Parliament Act (10 of 2009) is explicit - it states:

*"If the audit committee becomes aware of information implicating the Accounting Officer in fraud, corruption or gross negligence, it must report this promptly to the Executive Authority and the oversight mechanism."*

Accordingly, in light of this legal duty, I hereby request that each of the members of the Joint Standing Committee immediately be furnished with a copy of the Audit Committee report on Mr Mgidlana on condition that it be treated as confidential.

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

Yours faithfully,

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