



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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5 December 2017

Dr Mafu Rakometsi
CEO: Umalusi
By email: Mpumi.Phungula@umalusi.org.za

Dear Dr Rakometsi,

RE: Invitation to the standardisation meeting

Your letter of 1 December 2017 refers.

I am extremely disappointed in your response to my request to attend the standardisation meeting for the 2017 matric results.

As you well know, all public entities are subject to oversight by Parliament – such oversight is not limited to waiting to receive presentations after the fact from an entity. For you to invoke a separation of powers infringement in the same breath as proclaiming your commitment to proper Parliamentary oversight is bizarre and disingenuous. Moreover, while you have claimed to present full reports to the Committee, you have in fact neglected to reply comprehensively and accurately to important written questions.

Furthermore, I am truly astounded that a public entity should direct a Member of Parliament, and indeed the entire Portfolio Committee on Basic Education, as to how she should communicate with anyone. A Member is entitled to conduct oversight of any and all public entities, as outlined in the Oversight and Accountability Model of Parliament. “Individual member’s oversight” is listed separately to reports provided to the Committee as one of the mechanisms through which Members may conduct fulfil their Constitutionally-mandated oversight responsibility. We will address all further correspondence to you directly, as is our right.

To suggest that belated presentations to the Committee is the only means through which your entity is accountable is shocking and deeply troubling. The lip service your letter pays to mechanisms of checks and balances rooted in our Constitution is not reflected in your behaviour. If you genuinely wish to see your duty as a public entity done in fulfilment of your

democratically allocated mandate, you will not shy away from allowing, or even encouraging, access to this meeting for all Portfolio Committee members.

I advise you to reconsider your position. You refer to “established protocols” in your letter to the Committee Chairperson, yet the fact that you have reversed the standard practice of inviting the Committee in order to avoid any questions comes across as highly suspicious to me and to the public, who have a vested interest in the quality of education in South Africa.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nomsa I Tarabella Marchesi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nomsa I Tarabella Marchesi MP

DA Shadow Deputy Minister of Basic Education

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