



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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4 December 2017

Ms Nomalungelo Gina
Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Basic Education
By email: lbrown@parliament.gov.za

Dear Ms Gina,

RE: Invitation to the standardisation meeting

I read with disappointment the letters from Umalusi addressed to both myself and to you in your capacity as Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education.

A public entity cannot determine what level of oversight by the Committee is appropriate or sufficient, and certainly cannot direct Members of Parliament as to how they should communicate with entities. It is deeply troubling that they should demand special treatment in an attempt to avoid scrutiny. Directing us to communicate only through the Department and Minister is frankly an insult to you and to all the Committee's Members.

Our oversight role is crucial in ensuring that the children of South Africa receive the best possible basic education, as is their Constitutional right. As Members we share a profound sense of responsibility to make sure that the correct processes are being followed, and that we do not simply receive manufactured reports after the fact.

As such, I ask that you address this issue with Umalusi, so that Members can exercise their mandated oversight role by attending the standardisation meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you on the matter.

Regards,



Nomsa I Tarabella Marchesi MP

DA Shadow Deputy Minister of Basic Education

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