



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ms B Mbete
Speaker of the National Assembly
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
P.O. Box 15
Cape Town
8000

31 January 2018

Dear Madam Speaker,

REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

I write to you requesting a postponement of this year's State of the Nation Address (SONA), scheduled for next Thursday 8 February, until Jacob Zuma has been removed from office, and Parliament is afforded the opportunity to elect a new President.

It is no secret that there is a leadership crisis within the ANC and national government, with two "centres of power" - each with starkly differing policies, ideological positions and plans of action. While Cyril Ramaphosa is the ANC President, Jacob Zuma remains President of South Africa, leaving our nation in a state of paralysis.

As things stand, it would not be in the best interests of South Africa for President Zuma to deliver the State of the Nation Address when there exists great uncertainty as to whether he will remain President of South Africa, and if so, for how long. While the ANC's National Working Committee (NWC) has requested Jacob Zuma be removed before SONA, the ANC's Deputy Secretary-General, Jessie Duarte, has gone on record saying Jacob Zuma is "going nowhere".

Last year's State of the Nation Address cost over R11 million. Our nation cannot afford to waste public money for Jacob Zuma to deliver the government's programme of action for the coming year in his SONA, when it is not clear whether he will remain the President of the Republic in the very near future.

Moreover, if Jacob Zuma does in fact deliver the State of the Nation Address, this would further dent our already damaged credibility in the international community, as there would be no credibility to the programme of the state he would announce due to this uncertainty and ambiguity surrounding Jacob Zuma's future.

I would like to remind you that according to the new rules of Parliament adopted last year, Parliament is currently open for business, and does not require a multimillion rand fanfare for the House and its committees to continue the work of the people.

Therefore, I urge you to act in the interests of all South Africans, and postpone the State of the Nation Address until the ANC leadership battle has been resolved.

Yours sincerely

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mmusi Maimane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mmusi Maimane MP
Leader of the Official Opposition