



**THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION
FREE STATE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

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Date:	08 February 2018
To:	N van Rooyen (MPL) The Chief Whip of the Free State Legislature
From:	David van Vuuren (MPL) The Chief Whip of the Official Opposition
Cc:	Ms M Qabathe (MPL) The Speaker of the Free State Provincial Legislature Mr L Mofokeng The Secretary to the Free State Provincial Legislature Mr K Morapela (MPL) The Leader of the EFF in the Free State Provincial Legislature Ms T Wessels (MPL) The Leader of the FF+ in the Free State Provincial Legislature
Subject:	RE: Dismissal of the Motion of No Confidence by the Spokesperson of the Chief Whip of the Legislature

Dear Chief Whip,

The attached article, The New Age, 08 February, Page 3, bears reference:

The comments attributed to your spokesperson, Phiwe Mathe, as reported in the article, contradicts your letter dated 05 February 2018.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that it is the Multi-Party Whips Committee and the Programming Committee, of which we are members, who plan and finalise the programme of the legislature.

Furthermore, affecting changes to the programme is a general occurrence and there is no reason, apart perhaps from a party political reason by the ANC, why a meeting of the Multi-Party Whips Committee cannot be called for immediately.

We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that even Parliament has amended its programme postponing the Joint Sitting scheduled to hear the State of the Nation Address this year.

It is unacceptable that the Office of the Chief Whip unilaterally decides what business before the Legislature is indeed feasible or not.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY.

LEADER: Mmusi Maimane | **CHAIRPERSON: Athol Trollip**

We also express our strong objection to the fact that your spokesperson is reported as politicising the matter when he should act in a capacity as spokesperson to the Chief Whip of the Legislature and not for the ANC. His is a funded position of the Legislature and he should confine his communication to the business of the Office of the Chief Whip. It is extremely inappropriate of him to offer party political commentary. We expect you to take the necessary corrective steps to ensure this does not repeat itself.

Yesterday, the Leader of the Official Opposition, Dr Roy Jankielsohn (MPL), wrote to yourself, the Speaker and the Secretary, motivating for the urgent need to convene a special sitting to debate and vote on the motion of no confidence in Premier Ace Magashule without any further delay. Our arguments are supported by judgements from the Constitutional Court and the Western Cape Division of the High Court.

We urge you to clarify your position and await your urgent response to this letter and the correspondence submitted to your office yesterday.

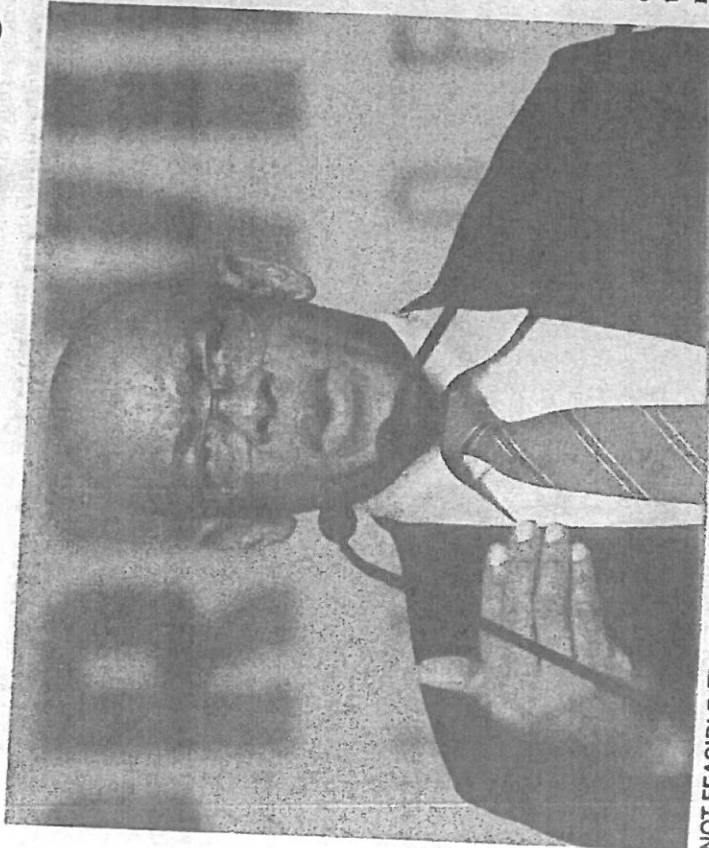
Failing which, we reserve our rights in this matter.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. van Vuuren', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David van Vuuren
Member of the Free State Provincial Legislature
Chief Whip
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'No room for DA's motion of no confidence'



NOT FEASIBLE: The DA made a submission to table a motion of no confidence against Free State Premier Ace Magashule. PICTURE: MORTIMER

MICHAEL TLHAKUDI

THE programme for the first quarter of the year for the provincial legislature was finalised and adopted a week before the opposition DA made a submission to table a motion of no confidence in Premier Ace Magashule, the office of the provincial ANC chief whip said.

This means the DA's request would not be feasible.

The DA last week requested the legislature to hold a special sitting where it planned to table the motion.

Spokesperson for the office of the chief whip, Phiwé Mathe, this week confirmed the receipt of the motion of no confidence.

However, the programming committee of the legislature, which decides on the formal programme that informs the activities, said there was just no room for the special sitting.

"Owing to the tight programme of the provincial legislature and also the legislative commitments informed

by the programme of national Parliament, it would not be feasible to convene an urgent meeting of the multiparty whips committee to attend and discuss the matter," Mathe said.

"In light of this, we thus view this motion as another obscenely politically opportunistic stunt by the DA which is overly concerned by what the impact of the renewed hope which South Africans have in the ANC post the 54th national conference."

Mathe said the insinuation that Magashule did not want to vacate his office despite having assumed a new political role which requires him to be at the headquarters of the ANC on a full-time basis, exposes the depth of the political crisis which the DA finds itself in.

Mathe said this would be another frivolous motion which would yet again fail to remove the ANC as a popularly elected majority party in government. DA provincial leader Patricia Kopane said they were surprised with

the latest developments.

She said they did receive an acknowledgment letter from the speaker Marniki Qabathe and they were still awaiting her official response relating to their request.

"We have not received any information from the speaker so what you are talking about is news to us.

"As far as we are concerned, our request is being processed and we await the response from the speaker," she said.

The party said it wanted the motion to be tabled before the state of the province address on February 20 in Parys because they didn't want Magashule to address the legislature.

The move follows a raid by the Hawks a fortnight ago at the premier's offices and agriculture department as part of its investigation into the allegations of fraud at the Vrede Dairy Farm.

Kopane said they would seek clarity from the speaker.

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