



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE
OPPOSITION

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6 July 2017

Dr Setlhomamaru Isaac Dintwe
Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence
Bogare, Corner of Atterbury Road and Lois Avenue
Menlyn
Pretoria

Dear Dr Dintwe,

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED USE OF STATE RESOURCES TO SPY ON PROMINENT SOUTH AFRICANS, ON BEHALF OF THE GUPTA FAMILY

I am writing to you to formally request an investigation into allegations, widely disseminated via various news media on 24 June 2017¹ and thereafter, that Sahara Chief Executive and close Gupta associate, Ashu Chawla, was found in possession of sensitive, confidential and private state-held information about prominent South Africans.

The information included the personal and travel information of EFF leader, Julius Malema; former Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, and his wife, Absa CEO Maria Ramos; Investec CEO Stephen Koseff; Dimension Data chairperson Jeremy Ord; chairpersons of FirstRand and RMI holding companies, Laurie Dippenaar and GT Ferreira; and Rand Merchant Bank co-founder, Paul Harris.

A spreadsheet with the information was reportedly attached to an e-mail sent to Chawla from an unknown source. It was contained in a tranche of leaked e-mails from the Gupta family and their associates, popularly known as #GuptaLeaks. Subsequent media reports² have also detailed surveillance of prominent journalists and editors, allegedly as part of an intimidation and harassment campaign by former Gupta employees.

It is the DA's contention that Chawla could only have received the information from persons within the Department of Home Affairs and the State Security Agency (SSA) and, as such, we believe that state resources may have been used to provide the Gupta family with information on perceived 'opponents'.

¹ The allegations can be found here:

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2017-06-24-news24-guptaleaks-inside-the-gupta-intelligence-agency/#.WVzxsliGPcd>

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/guptaleaks-guptas-spied-on-manuel-malema-and-bank-bosses-20170624>

<https://www.pressreader.com/south-africa/sunday-times/20170625>

² The allegations can be found here:

<http://ewn.co.za/2017/06/29/ewn-exclusive-further-evidence-shows-harassment-and-malign-of-sa-journos>

The DA also believes that the allegations point to the seeming dysfunction in South Africa's intelligence services wherein a clandestine spy network, reporting to the Guptas, exists within government. Indeed, we contend that the SSA is either unable or unwilling to act on its core mandate, namely "to provide the government with intelligence on domestic and foreign threats or potential threats to national stability, the constitutional order, and the safety and wellbeing of our people".

We respectfully ask the Office of the IGI to investigate these serious allegations and establish, *inter alia*, whether the Gupta family or their associates were furnished with any state-held information and by whom; whether any state resources were used or abused in obtaining said information; and whether any surveillance was carried out on behalf or for the benefit of the Gupta family or their associates.

I trust you will consider this request with the seriousness and urgency it warrants.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "John Steenhuisen." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

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