



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Hon B Mbete MP
Speaker of the National Assembly
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
P.O. Box 15
Cape Town
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16 October 2018

Dear Madam Speaker,

**URGENT QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ORAL REPLY ON CORRUPTION
AND LOOTING AT VBS MUTUAL BANK**

In terms of Rule 141 of the National Assembly, an urgent question for oral reply may be placed on the Order Paper.

As I am sure you are aware, Advocate Terry Motau's report released last week titled '*The Great Bank Heist*' provides a sobering account of how close to R2 billion was stolen from the VBS bank accounts of poor, vulnerable and elderly people and funneled towards rich politicians, politically connected businesspersons, and their associates.

Last week Sunday, a *City Press* report alleged that President Cyril Ramaphosa became aware of the involvement of bank executives in corruption and looting at VBS Mutual Bank during a meeting with a VBS shareholder in Johannesburg at the beginning of 2017. The report claims that the shareholder informed President Ramaphosa of the corruption and that the President said that he would do something about it.

I note the Presidency's statement that:

'President Ramaphosa has no knowledge of any meeting where he is said to have met any person associated with VBS Mutual Bank where he was purportedly briefed on the matter... The VBS Bank saga was brought to the attention of the President through official government channels including National Treasury... The President subsequently requested a comprehensive report from the Treasury on this matter and continues to be guided by it on all matters relating to VBS.'

While the Presidency attempted to bury this matter yesterday via a press statement, the truth still remains elusive. We now sit with allegations and counter allegations, none of which provide full clarity on the President's involvement.

As of yet, President Ramaphosa has failed to tell the nation the date on which he first became aware of the corruption and looting at VBS, and the date of when he first acted on this knowledge, if at all.

It is absolutely vital to ascertain this, as the President has a legislative duty to report corrupt transactions in terms of section 34(1) of the Prevention and Combatting of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004 (PACCA). If he failed to do so, he may well be criminally liable.

For the holder of the highest office in the Republic to have allegedly had prior knowledge of grand corruption and looting for almost two years is an incredibly serious allegation and cannot be left partially answered through a 170-word statement from the Presidency. It is of urgent public importance that the President is afforded an opportunity in Parliament to answer to this serious allegation.

Therefore, the President needs to use his final Oral Questions session for the year to play an open hand with the people of South Africa and unequivocally state what date he first became aware of the VBS saga and when he first acted in this regard.

I have submitted with this letter the following Oral Question for urgent reply:

On what date did he (a) first become aware of the involvement of executives in corruption and looting at the VBS Mutual Bank and (b) subsequently take action, if any, in this regard?

I trust that you will give this request your favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Mmusi Maimane MP
Leader of the Official Opposition