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## **DARREN BERGMAN, MP**

SHADOW MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

11 June 2019

Honourable Dr. Naledi Pandor  
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Per e-mail: [Minister@dirco.gov.za](mailto:Minister@dirco.gov.za) / [Mahoaik@dirco.gov.za](mailto:Mahoaik@dirco.gov.za)

Dear Dr. N. Pandor

### **DA RECOMMENDS THE URGENT RECALL OF BRUCE KOLOANE AS AMBASSADOR**

The Democratic Alliance has taken a decision to recommend that your office considers the immediate recall of Ambassador Bruce Koloane from his posting to the Netherlands, following his incriminating testimony at the Zondo Commission.

In his testimony, Ambassador Koloane admitted under oath that, while he was still the Chief of State Protocol, he abused the power of his office to benefit the Gupta family by enabling them to land their private jet at the Waterkloof Airforce base in 2013.

Ambassador Koloane's actions were a direct breach of our national security and a violation of the National Key Point Act as he oversaw the landing of a civilian plane at a National Key Point. The National Key Point Act implicates Ambassador Koloane for serious wrongdoing as Section 25 10 (1) clearly states that:

*“Any person who, at, on, in connection with or in respect of any National Key Point performs any act which, if such act would have constituted an offence in terms of the Official Secrets Act, 1956 (Act No. 16 of 1956), if performed or executed at, on, in common with or respect of any prohibited place, as defined in section 1 of that Act, should be guilty of an offence and liable to penalties prescribed for that act in that Act”*

The ambassador clearly breached the law, and this makes his continued stay as an ambassador untenable. It is deeply concerning to learn, from media reports, that DIRCO has taken a decision to let Ambassador Koloane conclude his term as ambassador to the Netherlands, with a possibility that he will continue working for the Department after his tenure.

If this is the official position of DIRCO, underwritten by your office, it would be a serious indictment on the sincerity of President Cyril Ramaphosa's purported fight against state capture and corruption. The state cannot afford to continue shielding individuals who were prepared to break the law in order to obtain favor from corrupt handlers.

Ambassador Koloane willingly allowed himself to be used as a conduit to violate South Africa's national security through deliberate misrepresentation of the authority entrusted to him by the state. This makes him unsuitable to act on behalf of a country whose laws he was prepared to break with impunity.

The integrity and moral standing of our diplomatic corps is non-negotiable. I trust that your office will consider the urgency of this matter and move to restore the damaged image of our diplomatic corps by recalling Ambassador Bruce Koloane from his post.

Kind Regards

**Darren Bergman MP**  
**Shadow Minister of International Relations and Cooperation**  
**Democratic Alliance**