



23 July 2019

Minister Gwede Mantashe
Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy
Per e-mail: Mandisi.Mavata@dmr.gov.za

Dear Minister Mantashe,

Request for clarity regarding the shock removal of Karen Breytenbach

I am writing to you to request clarity regarding the shock removal of Karen Breytenbach as the Head of South Africa's Independent Power Producers Office. Breytenbach who oversaw the expansion of South Africa's privately-owned renewable energy projects, stated yesterday that she has been asked to vacate her job nine months before her contract expires. She also stated in an interview that she was not provided with a reason for her removal – she only knows that the Department of Energy would like to appoint someone else in her place.

This comes as a great shock, as Breytenbach has won support from prominent figures in the energy industry for a programme that was seen as one of the world's best in attracting rapid investment in solar and wind power.

Her tenure has been characterised by the investment of R209 billion in the successful roll out of 112 renewable energy projects. She achieved these feats without succumbing to corruption or political pressure.

As such I believe that it is in public interest to get clarity on the following:

- Why was Breytenbach forced out of her contract early?
- Do IPPs (and particularly Renewable Energy IPPs) form part of the Integrated Resource Plan and his vision for South Africa's energy security?
- Will the department open bid window 5 and allow REIPPPs to compete for a share of the country's energy requirements?

I look forward to your response.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Mileham', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Mileham (MP)
DA Shadow Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy
kmileham@gmail.com
083 463 8858