



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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Subject: Draft Criminal Law (Forensics Procedures) Amendment Bill

Dear Minister Cele

During the debate in Parliament on Tuesday 10 September 2019 you agreed to work together with me in tackling Gender Based Violence (GBV). I would like to sincerely appreciate this response to my request in the debate and I look forward to working with you on this issue.

An immediate opportunity which presents itself to collaborate in the fight against GBV is the Draft Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill which requires your signature before it can be gazetted and ultimately sent to Parliament.

This draft bill appears to seek to extend the transitional period for the taking of buccal samples from convicted offenders in terms of schedule 8 from its expiration in 2017 by a further two years. It has now been almost three years since the transitional period expired and this is completely unacceptable.

It is understood that the delay is a result of an investigation into a national DNA database for all citizens. Respectfully, this is preposterous as there is an existing database for convicted offenders which needs to be kept up to date. It was reported to the committee today that 46,727 convicted offenders have not been sampled. Any further delays cannot be tolerated.

Given the public outcry for the Minister and Parliament to do something about GBV I would urge you to expedite the signing of this draft bill as an immediate response to the public outcry.

Kind Regards

Andrew Whitfield, MP

DA Shadow Minister of Police

