



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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02 August 2020

Ms T R Modise
Speaker of the National Assembly
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
CAPE TOWN
8001

Dear Madam Speaker,

**REQUEST FOR DEBATE OF URGENT MATTER OF NATIONAL PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
IN TERMS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RULE 130 ON CORRUPTION RELATED TO
COVID-19 TENDERS**

I write to you in terms of National Assembly Rule 130 to request that you schedule a debate of urgent national public importance on corruption related to Covid-19 tenders in South Africa.

On 23 March, President Cyril Ramaphosa solemnly vowed to South Africans that profiteering from the Covid-19 pandemic would not be tolerated, and that anyone who did so would face serious consequences. In his televised address he said:

"I want to make it clear that we expect all South Africans to act in the interest of the South African nation and not in their own selfish interests. We will therefore act very strongly against any attempts at corruption and profiteering from this crisis.

I have directed that special units of the National Prosecuting Authority be put together to act immediately and arrest those against whom we find evidence of corruption. We will work with *the judiciary to expedite cases against implicated persons and make sure the guilty go to jail.*"

Despite this vow, South Africans have recently learned of the following corruption scandals involving those linked to the governing party over which President Cyril Ramaphosa presides:

- President's Ramaphosa's son, Andile Ramaphosa, landed a R6 million contract to modify taxis in Gauteng to comply with Covid19 regulations.
- President Ramaphosa's spokesperson, Khusela Diko's husband, Thandisizwe Diko, landed a R125 million contract to supply PPE.
- ANC secretary-General Ace Magashule's sons, Tshepiso Magashule and Thato Magashule, landed Covid19 procurement contracts in the Free State to the value of R2.7 million.
- Former cabinet minister Minister Nomvula Mokonyane daughter, Katleho Mokonyane, landed a R3 million PPE contract despite her company only being six months old at the time.

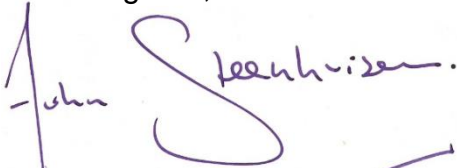
This matter is of urgent public importance as the South African economy is being decimated under South Africa's hard lockdown, shedding jobs and opportunity at an unprecedented rate. The issuing of government tenders must be used to bolster and support the thousands of small businesses which form the backbone of our economy through a process which is fair and transparent. The governing party and those connected to its elite cannot be allowed to repurpose a National State of Disaster as a means of self-enrichment when the very lives and livelihoods of ordinary South Africans are at immediate peril.

The President must address this insidious corruption as a matter of urgency because while tenderpreneurs linked to the governing party are profiting from a national pandemic, ordinary South Africans have lost all means to support themselves and feed their families as a result. This problem is very real and very pressing, and I urge Parliament to act immediately.

I hereby request that you schedule, at your earliest convenience, a debate of urgent national public importance in which President Cyril Ramaphosa will be urgently summoned to come to Parliament and answer for the behaviour of his party's members and set out exactly how he intends to act against each and every implicated individual.

I look forward to your favourable response.

Kind regards,

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

John Steenhuisen MP
Leader of the Official Opposition
Parliament of RSA