



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (21) 403-2379, Fax: +27 (086) 724 6398
e-mail: dawhip@da.org.za

Hon T Modise MP

Speaker of the National Assembly Parliament of the Republic of South Africa P.O. Box 15

Cape Town

8000

4 January 2021

Dear Madam Speaker,

URGENT RECONVENING OF PARLIAMENT IN TERMS OF RULES 130(1) AND 130(3)(b) AND, a request for the URGENT establishment of an ad hoc committee to oversee the vaccine roll out plan.

With reference to the above-mentioned matter, as well as your letter date 30 December 2020, and my letter dated to you on 31 December 2020, I am writing to ask that you reconsider the urgency of my request.

Your initial response acknowledges that “the Minister of Health is still to provide details of the vaccine roll out plan” and that “the plan is a matter of ongoing concern for all South Africans and warrants the continued oversight of Parliament” – however, draws the conclusion that the matter can wait until February, “in view of the fact that the vaccine will now be available in the second quarter of 2021”. As we now know, the Minister of Health held a briefing yesterday where many conflicting statements were made and South Africans are now more unsure than ever as to where we stand as a Nation with regards to the vaccine roll out plan. The media briefing has confused and quite frankly outraged many South Africans who now feel betrayed and let down by government. This sentiment has come from a broad spectrum of South Africans, spanning the country, and, political affiliations.

I now also ask that you ensure that Parliament does not become Constitutionally delinquent and that you call together a sitting of the National Assembly urgently to establish an ad hoc committee to oversee the roll out of the country’s vaccination program.

South Africans start returning to work, school, and tertiary education facilities if not within the week, soon thereafter. Many are already at work and we must remember our health care professionals and front lines worker, who have on a daily basis, put their lives at risk to keep us safe.

Hundreds of thousands of South Africans have lost fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, children, teachers, neighbours, colleagues and friends to the virus. Hundreds of thousands more have seen poorly planned lockdowns and unreasonable restrictions on trade and enterprise cost them their businesses, jobs, and income.

We must now demand that we are allowed to execute our mandate as in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of South African. We can no longer sit back and be told the Covid Council is dealing with issues. We too have a responsibility and we are being stopped from ensuring that we carry that responsibility through.

Lives are at stake, livelihoods are being destroyed. The economy is on the cliffs edge. Corruption and procurement theft are at a frightening high levels. If we do not act now, we will go against every oath we swore to uphold when we became Members of Parliament. We cannot become a delinquent parliament.

I look forward to your urgent response in this regard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mazzone'.

Natasha Mazzone MP
Chief Whip of the Official Opposition
Parliament of RSA