



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION

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Deputy President: Hon Mr David Mabuza
Leader of Government Business: Parliament of South Africa

15 January 2021

Dear Deputy President

URGENT REQUEST FOR THE RECONVENING OF PARLIAMENT

I am afraid that I have tried every avenue possible, but must now turn to you, in your role as Leader of Government Business in terms of the Rules and Orders of the National Assembly of the Republic of South Africa, to ask that you urgently reconvene Parliament for its members to take up their rightful place of executing our sworn oath of office.

This morning, as South Africans, we awoke to the news that we are faced with the following mammoth problems:

1. Confusion, frustration, and uncertainty regarding the vaccine programme;
2. A Home Affairs Department that has been instructed to stop their basic functions such as issuing smart identity documents, marriage licenses and other critical services;
3. A humanitarian crisis at our borders;
4. A South African Police Service that has been deployed to stop surfers and anyone trying to enter the sea or estuaries. This, while women and children continue to be raped and murdered at alarming rates;
5. A hospitality industry literally on its knees as hundreds of establishments shut their doors and cause massive unemployment and permanent economic devastation;
6. A social grants system that has all but collapsed, and has left the most vulnerable of society treated with indignity, humiliation, and pain;
7. Car licensing collapsing resulting in many breaking the law due to no fault of their own;
8. Learners who are terrified of what the academic year ahead holds for them;
9. Hospital facilities around the country completely unable to assist the ill due to a failure of the Health Department to use the initial hard lockdown period to prepare the system;
10. Further rolling blackouts which can kill the few businesses that managed to survive the lockdown period, even though the President himself promised the country that blackouts and the effects of the failures at Eskom would be a distant memory for South Africans over five and a half years ago;
11. An energy sector that remains in the clutches of those who seek to hold on to a monopolistic and outdated system created by Eskom and who refuse to move into a new era of energy supply;
12. Municipalities across the country unable to deliver the very basic of service due to corruption and incompetence of public servants; and,
13. A Parliament whose Speaker refuses to see the importance of Members of Parliament being called together to act in the best interests of South Africans; call urgent meetings to debate these issues and start the process of rectification before it is literally too late to do anything.

Sir, I know our people are scared. I am scared too, but now is the time for us to boldly lead and show South Africans that through cooperation and the sharing of ideas, we put South Africa first and turn the fate of our country around.

There is so much misinformation about the vaccine, let us lead and show the country that the vaccine is safe through leading by example and proving our faith in science before we expect the people to take it. This is what leadership is. It's standing up when things seem impossible and ensuring accountability and the restoration of faith and hope in our people.

Mr Deputy President, you cannot do this alone, and there is no need for you to do this alone. Parliament has a job, and we should not be stopped from executing our role, and robustly so at that. Governments all over the world have put politics aside and acted in the best interests of the people, it's time now for South Africa to do the same.

Mr Deputy President reconvene Parliament. Let us get to work. We cannot afford one more day of not being at the absolute service of our people.

I wish you good health.

Yours faithfully

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

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