



PARLIAMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH  
AFRICA

*Kevin Mileham MP*



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Advocate Anthea Gordon  
Registrar of Members'  
Interests

Attention: Parliament Joint Committee on Ethics and Members'

Interests Dear Advocate Gordon,

**Re: Additional evidence into Minister Gwede Mantashe's Ethics violation**

On the 28th of October 2019, the Democratic Alliance (DA) submitted evidence to Parliament's Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests as part of a request for an investigation into the conduct of the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe. This followed revelations in the media stating that Minister Mantashe had acknowledged to the *Sunday World* newspaper that he paid two of its journalists R70 000 to make a story about his personal life "disappear".

The DA would appreciate receiving an update into the progress of the investigation, as more than a year has passed since it was first submitted.

Following an independent inquiry into media ethics and credibility that was commissioned by the South African National Editors Forum (hereafter referred to as 'The Inquiry'), the DA hereby submits the Inquiry's findings to be considered as supplemental information into the Ethics Committee investigation into Minister Mantashe (**see attached Annexure A**).

The Inquiry made the following findings:

- Minister Gwede Mantashe showed "executive contempt" for the media when he made public allegations that he had paid R70,000 to *Sunday World* journalists to kill a story about him;
- The Minister's actions were a prime example of political and executive disregard and contempt for the media.
- Making an on-the-record allegation and then retracting it without explanation is contemptuous of the media and media practitioners' function and standing;
- That a Cabinet minister should escape censure from his political confrères indicates a disregard for a fundamental democratic institution;
- Such incidents demonstrate that not only is there subordination and disrespect for the media, but also a growing discourse on the part of politicians that deliberately undermines trust in and the credibility of the media.

These findings against the Minister are of a grave and serious nature, requiring that Parliament exercises its responsibility in holding the Minister to account in terms of the *Code of Ethical Conduct*



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*and Disclosure of Members' Interests of Parliament. Section 10.1.1.3 states that a Member is in breach of the Code if he or she, amongst other clauses, contravenes section 4.1 of the Code. This section states that members must "by virtue of the oath or affirmation of allegiance taken by all elected Members, uphold the law; act on all occasions in accordance with the public trust placed in them; [and] maintain public confidence and trust in the integrity of Parliament and thereby engender the respect and confidence that society needs to have in Parliament as a representative institution".*

An independent media is an integral part of our democratic system. It is therefore unacceptable for a member of Cabinet to bribe the media, or individual journalists, regardless of the story or occasion, or to place on record that s/he has done so, whether in fact s/he did in fact bribe the journalist/s.

We trust that the committee will attend to this investigation with the urgency that it so deserves. Sincerely,

Kevin Mileham MP