



7 February 2020

Hon. Tyotyo James
Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration as well as
Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
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**Request to summon Minister Senzo Mchunu to respond to findings of SIU
investigation**

Dear Hon. James,

Last week, the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) revealed its latest findings into Covid corruption. In relation to the Temporary Employment Relief Scheme (TERS) paid by the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), the SIU found that “A total of 6,140 government officials were identified and were claiming from UIF to the value of R41,009,737, making use of 3,959 bank accounts.”

It is hard to overstate the seriousness of this finding. Every single government employee continued to receive their full salaries throughout lockdown even if they had their workloads reduced significantly. Despite receiving their full salaries while witnessing the profound suffering caused by the lockdown crisis in the private sector, these 6,140 officials nevertheless decided to steal TERS money meant to put bread on the tables of hungry families.

The SIU appears to have already compiled substantial evidence on this fraud, including the bank account details of all implicated officials. There is thus no reason whatsoever for the Department of Public Service and Administration to delay taking immediately disciplinary action against every last one of these officials. It is unconscionable to expect the people of South Africa to continue paying the salaries of 6,140 officials who stole from hungry families during a global pandemic.

Given the extremely serious nature of these findings, I request that you urgently summon both the SIU and Minister Senzo Mchunu to report to the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration. We need the SIU to provide the committee with the full details of its findings related to this TERS corruption, and we need Minister Mchunu to provide the committee with a comprehensive plan – including clear timelines – for disciplinary action that his department will take against every last one of the 6,140 implicated officials.

I look forward to your positive response on this matter of national importance.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L Schreiber', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Leon Schreiber MP