



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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**ANGEL KHANYILE, MP**

SHADOW MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

08 April 2022

Per e-mail: [herman@actionsa.org.za](mailto:herman@actionsa.org.za)

Dear Mr Mashaba,

### **Request to take a stand against xenophobia**

I am sending you this letter in my capacity as the Democratic Alliance (DA) Shadow Minister for Home Affairs in the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, but also as a concerned and peace-loving South African.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the DA is deeply concerned about the wave of violent xenophobia that is currently sweeping across South Africa. We are horrified by the xenophobic murder of Elvis Nyathi, an innocent father of four, in Diepsloot. And we believe there is a very real chance that the continued fuelling of xenophobic sentiments by some political leaders could soon spiral out of control and lead to a repeat of the widespread violence, looting and anarchy that our country experienced less than a year ago.

As a political leader in this country, I would like to appeal to your conscience to stop fuelling xenophobic sentiments in our communities. You are regarded by many South Africans as the first politician who harnessed anti-foreigner sentiments for political purposes. Your record in both public office and in the political sphere is unfortunately littered with examples of xenophobic utterances. A recent example is your attack on foreign nationals, who are presumably in the country legally, for contributing to the education of South Africa's children. I attach a screenshot below for ease of reference.



**Herman Mashaba** ✓  
@HermanMashaba

...

It has just been brought to my attention about the employment of foreign nationals in senior positions in the Department of Basic Education. Will take this matter up with the Minister and SADTU if they have knowledge of this when South Africans are unemployed



**Mjekana** 🇿🇦 @MjekanaJK · Jan 29

The employment of foreigners in SA has become too much and we must not entertain it

Statistic South Africa, we are aware that there is a process underway to employ field workers. THOSE JOBS ARE FOR SOUTH AFRICANS. DON'T SAY WE DID NOT WARN YOU!!!

3:51 PM · Jan 29, 2022 from Rustenburg, South Africa · Twitter for Android

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It is precisely due to your history on this issue that I am requesting you to demonstrate decisive leadership by publicly apologising for any role you may have played in fuelling the violent xenophobia that we are currently witnessing, and that you call upon your followers to cease any and all physical or verbal attacks on foreign nationals. Given your history of pronouncements against foreigners, I believe that you not only have a moral responsibility to quell the current violence, but that your followers would be more inclined to heed a call for non-aggression against foreign nationals if it emanated from you personally.

The DA continues to oppose all attempts to scapegoat any person – foreign or local – for the failures of the ANC and the Department of Home Affairs. Our newly updated immigration policy focuses on the true source of the problem by advocating that Home Affairs be fixed, that immigration processes be streamlined, and that our visa system be reformed to attract skilled immigrants who can help grow our economy and unlock opportunity for the 30 million impoverished South Africans. Because we understand that it is the ANC rather than foreign nationals who broke our immigration system, we also remain singularly focused on defeating the ANC's majority in the 2024 election.

As you know, the DA is committed to cooperating with your party in a number of coalition governments. I believe that those coalition governments should outline an alternative future for South Africa that is free from all forms of violence, hatred, and scapegoating, which is why I believe it to be in the best interests of every South African that you demonstrate decisive leadership by apologising for your xenophobic utterances and helping us lead society away from a path that leads only to death and destruction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angel Khanyile", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

**Angel Khanyile MP**  
**Shadow Minister of Home Affairs**  
**Democratic Alliance**