



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION**

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25 April 2022

**Ms N N Mapisa-Nqakula, MP**  
Speaker of the National Assembly  
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa  
Cape Town  
8001

Dear Madam Speaker,

**Request for an urgent investigation and action to be taken against SCOPA Chairperson:  
Mr M Hlengwa, MP**

As I am sure you are now aware, a most unfortunate and quite frankly, unacceptable meeting took place between the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) and the board of Eskom on Friday 22 April 2022. The meeting soon deteriorated into an embarrassing exchange between an overwhelmed and biased Committee Chairperson, Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa, MP, and Eskom board member, Ms Busiviwe Mavuso.

Ms Mavuso was asked to leave a SCOPA meeting on Friday after a heated exchange with Mr Hlengwa. Mr Hlengwa accused Ms Mavuso of “displaying theatrics” when she was asked about the problems at Eskom. She had blamed the ANC for the rolling black outs and problems at Eskom, but Hlengwa described her behaviour as “politics of the gutter”.

Members of boards of various entities are called to SCOPA to be held accountable by Parliament and enjoy the right to speak openly, freely and MUST tell the truth. It has never been the case that a board member telling the truth or speaking openly has been asked to leave, based on the fact that the SCOPA Chairperson did not like the response. Ms Mavuso gave an honest account of her findings and experiences with Eskom and was treated with complete rudeness and disdain by Mr Hlengwa.

SCOPA had visited several Eskom power stations as part of their oversight duties. Ms Mavuso had made it clear that the Eskom board would not take the fall for problems caused by the ANC, with Ms Mavuso then held in contempt of Parliament. Allow me to quote her exact wording:

*“What we will not accept and what we will not agree to, in spite of all the challenges we are facing as an organisation and all the efforts that have been put in place, is to have this board and André (de Ruyter) as the fall guy for the mess that this organisation is currently experiencing, because the reality of the matter is that this is not our mess. We have been brought in to clean it up, but we are not going to be the fall guy for the R300 and whatever billion of Medupi and Kusile that have still not been completed, doing our best and try finalise those projects.*”

*“As André has said, we will avail ourselves, we should be held accountable, chairperson, to ensure Kusile is finished by 2023. But everything else, honestly we cannot be the fall guy for this ANC-led government,”*

For this truthful account, which is her completely honest opinion, Ms Mavuso was made to leave Parliament in an unprecedented fashion. The facts are quite simple: SCOPA is there to hear all sides of the story, whether the Chairperson (or any other member of the Committee) likes the answers or not. I would go so far as to say the extreme reaction of the SCOPA chair would indicate he was taking direct instruction from the ANC on the matter and was completely biased toward the ANC in his actions.

I therefore ask for the following actions to take place:

1. An apology be sent to Ms Mavuso for being thrown out of a meeting where she was asked to give an honest opinion;
2. Mr Hlengwa be reported to the Powers and Privileges Committee for a full investigation into his behaviour towards Ms Mavuso;
3. That a confirmation investigation with the House Chairperson: Committees, Mr C T Frolick, MP, begins to confirm that no meeting occurred between Mr Hlengwa and any ANC member before the meeting in question;
4. That Mr Hlengwa publicly apologise during the next sitting of the Assembly for the actions he took against Ms Mavusa;
5. That Mr Hlengwa be suspended as Chairperson of SCOPA until his hearing with the Powers and Privileges committee is finalised;
6. That Mr Hlengwa's ruling that Ms Mavuso should leave the meeting of SCOPA on 22 April 2022 be referred to the Rules Committee for further consideration.

I look forward to your action in this regard.

Yours faithfully,



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