



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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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 Establishment of Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Phala Phala

I am writing to request the establishment of an ad hoc committee to investigate allegations surrounding the Phala Phala game farm theft in terms of Rule 253(1)(b). This rule allows for you to establish an ad hoc committee during this recess period after consulting the Chief Whip and the most senior whip of all other parties.

The theft at President Cyril Rampahosa's Phala Phala game farm has become an issue of national importance, with important questions remaining unanswered. These include exactly how much was stolen, the source of these funds, whether these funds were reported to SARS, and why such large amounts of foreign currency were being hidden within the President's home. There are further allegations that members of Ramphosa's Presidential Protection Unit kidnapped and tortured suspects to obtain information on where the stolen money was hidden, and subsequently were bribed R150 000 each to ensure their silence on the theft.

Further developments have now been reported in the media which indicate a large scale coverup operation across our government structures. It has been reported that Deputy State Security Minister Zizi Kodwa knew about the Phala Phala robbery and opted to keep the matter a state secret, rather than reporting the matter to the appropriate authorities. It has also been alleged that Kodwa accompanied Major General Wally Rhoode, the head of the Presidential Protection Unit during secrete interactions between the South African and Namibian authorities.

Reports have also emerged that a secret Crime Intelligence Fund was used to finance the undercover operations which traced the thieves, with the goal of recovering the stolen money. It has been alleged that almost R2 million a month from this fund was spent to send an elite special task force to guard President Ramaphosa's private game farm. Should this be true, this would constitute a flagrant abuse of our taxpayer's money.

Given the gravity of these allegations, and the importance of this matter to our nation, Parliament must urgently establish an ad hoc committee to investigate the veracity of these

allegations during our recess period. Rule 253 (3) states that “an ad hoc committee may only be established for the performance of a specific task” and rule 253(4)(b) requires a specific time frame for the work of the committee be stipulated.

The envisioned committee will have the specific, and unique task of investigating the above matter on a dedicated platform within no more than six months. We believe the current committees are not sufficient to investigate the matter as it has now clearly traversed several departments, including finance, state security, justice, police, and the presidency, which substantiates why a larger ad-hoc committee is required. The seriousness of this matter further necessitates that it cannot be delayed until Parliament resumes business in August.

Parliament must immediately exercise its oversight role over the executive and seek answers to these allegations. Our citizens deserve to know the truth without any further delay.

I trust this request will be given the urgent consideration it deserves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Steenhuisen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S'.

John Steenhuisen MP
Leader of the Official Opposition
Parliament of RSA