



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (21) 403-2656, Fax: +27 (086) 724 6398
e-mail: parliamentaryleader@da.org.za

26 August 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,

URGENT QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

In terms of rule 141 (1)(b) of the Rules of the National Assembly (9th edition), on Urgent questions, I write to request that you allow the following urgent question for oral reply to be put to the President on Tuesday 30 August 2022, which is the next session of questions to the President.

Urgent question: Having spent over a billion rand of public money on the Zondo Commission on State Capture, President Ramaphosa stated under oath in his answering affidavit to the DA last week that the recommendations of the Zondo Commission are “not binding”. This severely undermines the entire four-year process and implies the public has spent over a billion rand on mere advice that he can disregard if he so chooses. This is deeply concerning given that his own party was the prime offender. If he does not consider the findings of the Commission to be binding, what assurance can he give South Africa that he will consider its recommendations and make determinations without fear or favour?

This question is urgent because the public needs to hear directly from President Ramaphosa that he will treat the recommendations of the Zondo Commission with the seriousness they deserve, having spent over a billion rand of the public’s money on the commission. The President owes it to the people of South Africa, who have suffered greatly and lost much due to the evils of state capture, to address them openly and honestly on this issue, and to do so with the utmost urgency. The report is already before Parliament and the President is expected to submit to Parliament his plan to implement its recommendations in October. This question therefore cannot wait until the next oral question session on 29 September.

People will not have confidence in the process, or confidence in South Africa’s ability to end state capture, until the President gives his assurances on this matter. Investors, decision-makers, corrupt politicians, and ordinary South Africans need to know that the entire process of ending state capture is still on track and has not been fatally derailed. The economy is already on its knees; it cannot afford any further uncertainty.

Please note that questions to the President for oral reply are particularly critical to democratic accountability since the President has steadfastly refused to take questions from the media.

I urge you to do the right thing by South Africa and allow me to put this question to President Ramaphosa for oral reply.

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