



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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March 9, 2023

Dear Minister Cele

The National Shutdown being organized and promoted by the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) for the 20th of March 2023 presents a very clear and present threat to the economy, the safety and rights of citizens as well as to public and private infrastructure.

The rhetoric surrounding this shutdown indicates that protestors intend to willfully break the law and do not fear the consequences. This includes threatening images of an EFF leader from Mpumalanga brandishing an automatic rifle on social media with the following post: "By all means necessary or possible we are ready".

Considering the experience and lessons learned from the July unrest in 2021 and taking into account the threat to the State, the economy and the citizens of South Africa, what measures have the South African Police Service (SAPS) put in place to ensure that protests are controlled and that consequences for any transgressions are enforced?

It is of critical importance that the SAPS is fully prepared to contain these protests and that a strong message is sent to the organizers and to the public at large that SAPS is prepared and that they will act swiftly and decisively when the rights and freedoms of others are compromised.

I look forward to your urgent response.

Kind Regards

Andrew Whitfield, MP