NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
Hon. Nicholas Gotsell
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Date: 24th March 2025

HON. M GIGABA
HON. P PHALA
CHAIRPERSONS OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE
PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
100 PLEIN STREET
CAPE TOWN
8000

Dear Honourable Co-Chairpersons,

REQUEST TO PLACE ITEM ON COMMITTEE AGENDA – ARMY GOLF DAY AMIDST DEFENCE CRISIS

I am writing to formally request that an item be included on the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence, scheduled for 4 April 2025. The item pertains to the planned Army Golf Day, which is reportedly being organised at a time when the Department of Defence and Military Veterans is facing a well-documented and escalating defence crisis.

Given the operational and budgetary constraints currently afflicting the South African National Defence Force, the decision to proceed with a non-operational event of this nature raises serious concerns regarding priorities, accountability, and public perception. Furthermore, it has come to light that the Chief of the Army has solicited sponsorships for this event from the Defence Industry, whom the Department of Defence, the NCACC and the DCAC has neglected to adequately support or serve in recent years..

Accordingly, I request that the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the Chief of the SANDF and the Chief of the Army be asked to appear before the Committee to account for the rationale behind hosting the Army Golf Day, clarify the source of funding for the event, and explain how such an initiative aligns with the Department's current mandate and obligations to both national security and the defence industry.

Placing this item on the Committee's 4 April 2025 agenda will ensure that Members have the opportunity to seek answers and deliberate on this matter of public and institutional concern.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS GOTSELL

MEMBER OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE