



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa
Tel: 27 (21) 403 2911
www.parliament.gov.za

Mr. CW Frolick
Chairperson of Chairpersons: National Assembly

Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
90 Plein Street
Cape Town
8000

22 August 2025

Dear Chair of Chairs Frolick,

I trust this letter reaches you well.

I am writing to you following my letter to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training, Mr TW Letsie, dated 21 August 2025.

In this letter (annexure copied) I, on behalf of the Democratic Alliance, requested that the Portfolio Committee, in the next quarter, extends an invitation to the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr. BK Manamela to discuss his 19 August 2025 appointment of SETA Administrators.

This follows Minister Manamela's appointments of Mr. Oupa Nkoane, Mr. Lehlohonolo Masoga, and Mr. Zukile Mvalo as Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) Administrators for the Construction CETA SETA (CETA), Services SETA (SSETA), and Local Government SETA (LGSETA) respectively.

These appointments are informed by the provisions of Section 15 of the Skills Development Act (Act 97 of 1998) which detail that the Minister may dissolve a SETA board and appoint an administrator only after consultation with the National Skills Authority, with the clear intent of restoring governance, accountability, and financial integrity.

Mr. Oupa Nkoane is a former Municipal Manager at the Emfuleni Local Municipality in Gauteng. He is implicated in a Comperio Forensic Report that details the mismanagement of R872 million in this municipality.

Mr. Lehlohonolo Masoga is a former ANC Limpopo MEC & Deputy Speaker. He is implicated in a Morar Forensic Report for back dating a communications contract worth R4.4 Million as the CEO of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone to justify ill-payments made to communications company, Mahuma Group.

Mr. Zukile Mvalo is the current Deputy Director General (DDG) responsible for skills development in the department of Higher Education since 2017. All 21 SETAs under the department report directly to him. The Auditor General of South Africa has published many damning findings against SETAs every reporting year. These findings and a lack of implementation of the AG's recommendations have taken place under his leadership as the DDG overseeing SETAs

In an article published by News24 on 21 August 2025, it claimed that Mr. Nkoane indicated to them that he had not received any communication of his appointment as the Administrator of the CETA. This follows Minister Manamela's gazette of his, Mr. Masoga and Mr. Mvalo's appointments on 19 August 2025. If the claims made in this article (<https://www.news24.com/politics/seta-scandal-deja-vu-like-nkabane-manamela-appoints-an-official-without-notifying-him-20250820-1196>) are true, this would constitute a procedural irregularity in his appointment. This would, at worst, constitute maladministration.

I, therefore, wrote to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee to request that the committee, in its next and first meeting of the 3rd quarter, discusses these appointments. I also requested that the committee's invitation of the Minister of Higher Education includes the National Skills Authority and Mr. Nkoane.

Chairperson Letsie responded to this request yesterday 21 August 2025 and declined this request (annexure copied). In his response he said: "I have also written to the Minister on 19 August 2025, to request detailed reasons in placing the three SETAs under administration. It will be premature to schedule the requested briefing before the Minister has responded to the Committee. The third term is also comprised of three weeks and one week is already taken by the committee's strategic planning workshop and the remaining two weeks have agenda items."

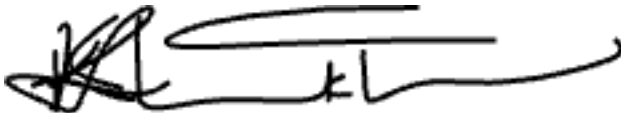
The committee chairperson's request for reasons for placing these SETAs under administration does not nullify the reasons for my request for an engagement with the Minister, the NSA and Mr. Nkoane. Moreover, committee agendas always serve with flexibility given committee member requests as has been the case with previous such instances such as the appointment of SETA Board Chairpersons by former Minister Nkabane. In cases of calendar clashes, the committee has always written to your office to request additional dates for committee deliberations, which you have granted us. Nothing, in the past (irrespective of responses from a minister of not) has ever stopped parliament from fulfilling its legislative duties.

In terms of Rule 227(1)(c) of the National Assembly Rules, a Portfolio Committee must maintain oversight of the exercise within its portfolio of national executive authority, including the implementation of legislation and major policy. The appointment of Administrators is a direct exercise of such authority and, therefore, falls squarely within the oversight mandate of the Committee.

Furthermore, Rule 138(2) provides that a committee may at any time summon any person to appear before it to give evidence on oath or affirmation, or to produce documents. This means the Committee is not bound to wait for the Minister's correspondence before exercising its right to convene a briefing or hearing on this matter.

I am, therefore, writing to you to request your guidance and intervention in this matter.

Yours in public service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karabo Khakhau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karabo Khakhau, MP
DA Member of Higher Education and Training Portfolio Committee
RSA National Assembly