



PARLIAMENT
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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Whip

Hon Mzamo Billy

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Date: 14 October 2025

To: Hon Jane Mananiso
The Chairperson
Select Committee on Security and Justice
National Council of Provinces

Subject: Urgent Committee Briefing on the Plight of Magistrates in KwaZulu-Natal

Dear Chairperson,

I wish to bring to your urgent attention reports of a lunchtime picket by magistrates in Durban this week, highlighting their ongoing frustration over poor salaries, inadequate working conditions, and lack of institutional support from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJCD).

This development underscores the growing crisis within the lower judiciary, which continues to face:

- Significant disparities in remuneration between magistrates and other tiers of the judiciary;
- Unsafe and dilapidated infrastructure in many magistrates' courts;
- A growing sense of demoralisation among judicial officers, which directly affects case finalisation rates and public confidence in the justice system.

As a member of this Committee, I believe it is essential that we exercise our oversight role decisively on this matter. I therefore request that the Committee urgently:

1. Invite the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mmamoloko Kubayi to brief the Committee on the current state of engagement with the Magistrates Commission regarding remuneration and working conditions.
2. Engage the Magistrates Commission or its representatives to hear first-hand the challenges facing magistrates in the country.

Our justice system cannot function effectively if those at the frontline of its delivery are demoralised and working under unjust conditions. Addressing these concerns is not only a matter of labour fairness but of constitutional importance.

I thank you for your consideration and trust that this matter will receive urgent attention.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Mzamo Billy, MP

Democratic Alliance – KwaZulu-Natal

Member: NCOP Select Committee on Security and Justice