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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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**LEAH POTGIETER, MP**

**DA SPOKESPERSON ON SPORT ARTS AND CULTURE**

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12 October 2025

Dear Chairperson McGluwa,

I am writing to formally request that the Portfolio Committee summons Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr Gayton McKenzie, as well as members of the Mzansi Golden Economy (MGE) adjudication panel, to appear in person before the Committee to provide clarity and accountability regarding the allocation of MGE funds.

On 17 September 2025, I submitted written questions to the Minister seeking detailed information on the Department's due diligence processes, the appointment of adjudication panel members and the rationale for withdrawing funding from certain events. The Minister has failed to respond within the required ten-day period and has not provided the Committee with the documentation he undertook to deliver, including the full list of MGE-funded applicants and explanations for why deregistered companies were approved for funding.

During the portfolio committee meeting in early September, the MGE adjudication panel initially denied any political affiliations. However, after I highlighted the active political roles of several members, they were forced to admit their ties to the Patriotic Alliance (PA), despite lacking relevant experience in the arts and culture sector. The PA spokesperson, who chairs the panel, aggressively attempted to defend these conflicts of interest, citing a "constitutional right" to support his party. I reminded the panel that the Constitution guarantees transparency, fairness, and accountability in public administration, principles which apply to all officials entrusted with public funds.

Both the King IV Code on Corporate Governance and the Public Service Regulations require proper conflict-of-interest vetting before appointments, yet the panel and department openly admitted that no such vetting had taken place, with the Minister solely determining the criteria and selecting panel members. This represents a clear case of political interference and cadre deployment in the allocation of public resources.

Given the seriousness of these concerns, I respectfully request that the Committee urgently summons the Minister and adjudication panel to appear before Parliament. Their continued evasion of oversight cannot be allowed to persist while public funds are allegedly being used for political purposes.

I look forward to your confirmation of this request and the Committee's proposed date for the engagement.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leah Potgieter', written over a horizontal line.

Ms Leah Potgieter MP