



PUBLIC PROTECTOR
SOUTH AFRICA

Accountability • Integrity • Responsiveness

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Mr George Michalakis MP

The Chief Whip

Democratic Alliance

Parliament

PO Box 15

Cape Town

8000

E-mail: dawhip@da.org.za

Dear Mr Michalakis,

POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST: COMPLAINT RELATING TO SALARY OF MR XOLILE GEORGE

1. Your letter dated 09 February 2026 sent to Registration2@pprotect.org, received by myself on 11 February 2026, is hereby acknowledged.
2. In accordance with the Public Protector South Africa (PPSA) operating procedures and protocols on categories of complaints emanating from members of Parliament, on 09 February 2026 I was apprised of the complaint lodged with this Office on 29 January 2026 concerning alleged improper conduct and maladministration relating to the appointment, remuneration and benefits of the Secretary to Parliament, as well as the financial management of the 2023 BRICS Parliamentary Forum.
3. In line with section 3(14) and (15) of the Public Protector Act 23 of 1994, I immediately disclosed to Adv N Nkabinde, the Chief Operations Officer and to the Head of Legal

Services, Adv N vd Merwe, that I may reasonably be perceived to have a conflict between my private interests and my official duties in this matter.

4. As is practice within the PPSA, investigations are conducted at arms length from the Public Protector and managed by professional investigators within established institutional frameworks. Investigations are led by Executive Managers who report to the Chief Operations Officer, ensuring appropriate oversight and professional independence. The PPSA operates under robust institutional safeguards that ensure independence and impartiality in all complaints management and investigations.
5. In order to manage this perceived conflict, and in line with the Act's framework which permits the delegation of functions and powers, the necessary steps are taken in terms of section 3(15) of the Act to ensure a fair, unbiased and proper investigation. I have recused myself from any involvement in the handling of the complaint or in any decisions arising from it. The Public Protector's functions under the Act and the Constitution will in respect of this matter be performed by the Deputy Public Protector, Adv D Dube, in accordance with the provisions of section 2A(6) of the Act.
6. The perceived conflict is therefore being actively managed within the statutory scheme to safeguard the independence, impartiality and integrity of the process and of the PPSA.

Yours Sincerely,



ADV KHOLEKA GCALEKA
PUBLIC PROTECTOR
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
DATE 11 FEBRUARY 2026