



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Ms Baleka Mbete, MP
National Assembly
PO Box 15
Cape Town
8000

Ms Baleka Mbete, MP
Speaker: National Assembly
Parliament of RSA
PO Box 15
Cape Town
8000

Tuesday, 04 September 2018

RE: REQUEST FOR URGENT DEBATE IN TERMS OF RULE 130(1)

Madam,

I write this letter with a very heavy heart and a sense of great despair at what I see to be a dereliction of duty by Parliament insofar as dealing with the escalating petrol prices is concerned.

I hereby refer to my letter and your letter of 2 July 2018 and 11 July 2018 respectively wherein I requested you to schedule a debate of urgent national public importance. A request you declined.

I yet again submit to you Madam Speaker a request that you schedule, without delay, a debate of urgent national public importance in terms of rule 130(1) of the National Assembly rules to deal with the escalating petrol prices with an adverse impact on the poor, vulnerable and the middle class. The impact of these unrelenting increases on SMME's, job creation and economic growth should be of serious concern to all us.

South Africans have been subjected to 6 fuel price increases this year, coupled with a VAT increase of 1% and a fuel levy increase of 52 cents.

Commuting costs for the poor have increased. Food prices have increased.

Surely, Madam Speaker, you will agree with me that the absence of a comprehensive relief package for citizens from government should feature prominently on Parliaments priorities if it is truly a Parliament of the People.

We have a constitutional duty to hold the executive to account, and in this regard I put it to you Madam Speaker the reasons you advanced in your letter of 11 July 2018 to reject my request for a Rule 130(1) debate were irrational and inconsistent with our work as Parliament insofar as oversight and accountability is concerned.

The very nature of rule 130(1) is to enable the National Assembly to circumvent the delegation of Plenary/House work to committees in urgent matters, which the escalating petrol prices I consider to be, particularly when we are seeking solutions.

A decision not to accede to this request again would be unfortunate and irresponsible in the face of prevailing realities of struggle and hardship facing the majority of our people.

Parliament is going to yet another recess next week, hot on the heels of an unnecessarily long recess of 3 months, and I believe the shortness of this term necessitates the urgency of this matter.

Urgent regards,

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

Mkhuleko Hlengwa, MP
Inkatha Freedom Party
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