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PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PO BOX 15
CAPE TOWN
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26 August 2009

His Excellency President Jacob Zuma

Tuynhuys

Cape Town

Dear Sir

RE: YOUR INVITATION TO MEET WITH POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS

In a meeting today among the leaders of opposition political parties (DA, COPE, IFP, ID, UDM, FF+, ACDP and the UCDP) we discussed a number of issues, amongst them cooperation among our parties in Parliament as well as the upcoming meeting with yourself.

Whilst leaders are positive about attending your meeting, there is uncertainty about the matters that will be raised in the absence of a set agenda. It was therefore decided amongst us that certain issues that we all feel strongly about should be raised, without excluding any other matter that individual leaders or yourself would like engage on.

These issues of common concern are:

- a. The appointment of the Chief Justice. We would appreciate a briefing on this matter, especially addressing the issues raised in correspondence from some of us regarding the apparent lack of consultation in this process.
- b. The release of the Donen Report. This report has been kept under wraps since its completion. We feel strongly that it is in the public interest for the findings to be made public immediately, and for all those who have been implicated to face justice.



- c. Service delivery. Recently we have witnessed the intensification of the riotous service delivery protests, at times bordering on anarchy. We would like to be briefed on Government's immediate plans to address the concerns of these communities.
- d. Meeting with the Head of Government Business. Notwithstanding that we met with the Deputy President on 10 June 2009, as leaders we felt that we need to appraise you of those issues that we have asked to be put on this government's agenda, namely:
- i. Party funding. The current system of party funding lacks transparency and fairness. It is our view that a better system is required to ensure that multi-party democracy will flourish in our country. We also need improved checks and balances to prevent unscrupulous domestic and international financiers from buying influence.
 - ii. The IEC's level of independence. We have on numerous occasions engaged the IEC directly, as well as other stakeholders, regarding the apparent lack of its independence.
 - iii. Media. Political coverage, especially on the public broadcaster's channels have been a cause of grave concern for a number of years.
 - iv. Creating an enabling environment for participatory democracy. We are concerned that the provisions of Section 57 (1-2) of the Constitution are not being implemented in a manner that encourage true multi-party democracy.

These issues (see attached document), which we raised with the Deputy President, will require joint cooperation among the opposition parties and the ruling party, as well as civil society to be resolved.

Looking forward to a fruitful discussion.

Yours sincerely,

Bantu Holomisa, MP
Chairperson of the Multi-party Steering Committee

