



COUNCIL
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE
SOUTH AFRICAN
CONSTITUTION

29 June 2016

Honourable Baleka Mbete

Speaker of the National Assembly

Parliament

Cape Town

Per email: speaker@parliament.gov.za

Dear Madam Speaker

We write to urge you to convene an urgent meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Communications to consider the recent developments at the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

We are fully aware that Parliament is in recess, but believe that the nature and implications of the crisis at the SABC demand that Parliament address this issue as a matter of utmost urgency.

Our central concern is that the public broadcaster may be failing to execute its constitutional, legal and licensing mandates in a manner that facilitates the holding of free and fair elections. In particular public broadcasters have a responsibility to ensure equitable access to all political parties, and they should reflect fairly and objectively on what is going on in the country.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee Mr Maxegwana stated on SABC radio this morning that the Committee will deal with the concerns about the SABC when it meets after the local government elections. We believe that this will be too late. The Committee and Parliament must urgently put in place effective safeguards to ensure that objective reporting on news and current affairs is not compromised in the run-up to the elections on 3 August 2016. A failure to do so may give rise to a challenge to the outcomes of the elections, a scenario the country can ill afford.

Yours sincerely

Lawson Naidoo
Executive Secretary

Cc: Mr C Maxegwana – Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communication

Council for the Advancement of South African Constitution

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