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060512 J Cons. Review

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23 March 2006

The Chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee  
Dr Manie Schoeman MP

Dear Dr Schoeman

I refer to what transpired at last week's meeting of the Constitutional Review Committee and your briefing to me in that connection.

As I understand it some members of the committee take the view that my statement issued after the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March erroneously conveyed the impression that the ANC had already made up its mind that Section 57(2)(d) of the Constitution should be changed. What I intended to convey was that I formed the view that the ANC would seek a change to S57(2)(d). I may say that the DA Chief Whip formed the same impression because of the relish with which the matter was discussed at successive Rules Committee meetings.

On re-reading my statement I agree it would have been better if I had said that "I formed a clear impression that the ANC would seek to change S57(2)(d)..." rather than "the ANC made it clear that they would seek a change to S57(2)(d)....". I accordingly apologize if my statement gave the wrong emphasis. It was not my intention. As I said I wished to convey my impression of the meeting. Clearly if my impression was wrong my party would be extremely pleased.

I would also like to place on record that I am quite upset that the secretary of the committee did not inform you of my verbal apology conveyed to her as well as my e-mailed apology for the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> March. On the afternoon of Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of March at about 14:30 I spoke to the secretary and advised her that I would not be able to attend and that I would request that the matter stand over to 24<sup>th</sup> March. I asked her for your cell number. She suggested instead that I send her an e-mail apology and she would forward it to you. She also gave me your e-mail address. I then immediately sent the e-mail apology to her with a separate copy to you. I am accordingly very surprised that she did not convey it to you. I gather you only received my separate e-mail to you on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March. I would like the secretary to explain why you were not made aware of the substance of my apology. I also find it regrettable that the matter was pursued in my absence.

You are welcome to table this letter and I will confirm its contents to the committee.

Yours sincerely

SHEILA CAMERER MP