

September 18, 2007 (SENT VIA E-MAIL TO THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY FROM SUZANNE VOS MP ON BEHALF OF THE IFP)

TO: The Chairperson, PC on Communications
National Assembly (Copy to all PC Members)

FROM: Suzanne Vos MP, Inkatha Freedom Party
Member: PC on Communications

WITH REF: Ms Gloria Serobe - SABC Board

1. The Inkatha Freedom Party respectfully requests that the official audio tape recording of the recent interview in Parliament of Ms Gloria Serobe be made available to the Committee and that the tape also be fully transcribed. During her interview Ms Serobe told the Committee that she did not know the person who had nominated her but (according to my notes made during the interview) that it was "nice" of him. It has subsequently transpired that the person who nominated her, Mr Louis du Plooy, is a senior official in the office of the Presidency *who has stated in an interview that he had discussed his nomination of Ms Serobe with her and that he did so in order to "get a CV from her to submit with the nomination form"*. If this is the case, Ms Serobe appears to have misled the Committee in what could possibly be construed as an attempt to hide Mr du Plooy's direct link with the office of Dr Essop Pahad, Minister in the Presidency. Any deliberate failure to fully inform the Committee when asked such a direct question (as Ms Serobe was indeed asked) has obvious and serious implications. The matter must be fully interrogated. Mr du Plooy used a fax number from the Presidency (reflected at the top of the nomination letter sent to Parliament) and gave his address as Louis J du Plooy, P O Box 2012, Groenkloof 0027 with a different fax number: 086 683 5332. Committee members must surely, also, reflect and pronounce on the issue relating to Mr du Plooy's obvious attempt at subterfuge. It was clearly not in order for him to attempt to disguise his employment in the Presidency and direct link with the Minister in the Presidency;
2. The Inkatha Freedom Party now places on record its view that the nomination and selection of SABC board members appears to have been manipulated beyond the reach of Parliament and therefore that the process cannot be seen as being fair or democratic. We therefore intend to request Parliament to (1) fully investigate the matter (2) to consider rescinding the recent vote pending a full investigation and (3) to delay sending the matter to the President of the Republic for his selection of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the SABC Board until the matter has been resolved to Parliament's satisfaction.