



**MINISTRY
PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Mr TK Makwetu
Auditor General
PO Box 446
PRETORIA
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20 April 2020

Dear Mr Makwetu,

RE: REQUEST FOR AN URGENT INDEPENDENT AUDIT INTO THE EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT & IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE 40KM BORDERLINE INFRASTRUCTURE AND INSTALLATION BETWEEN RSA AND ZIMBABWE

On the 15th of March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation with regards to the Covid-19 outbreak. This came shortly after the declaration of the corona virus as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization. The President then declared a National State of Disaster, subsequently outlining a number of emergency measures to be implemented to mitigate the risk of the Virus.

One of the measures announced by the President was that South Africa's borders and ports were to be secured with immediate effect, which included that 35 of the 53 land entry points would be closed. This measure would, however, not be effective if the fences at the border are not secure, which in many places, they are not.

The Department of Defence and Veterans, whose mandate it is to secure South Africa's borders, then requested that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) as a matter of urgency to repair and replace a 40km section of the Beitbridge Border Post Fence, which was identified as the hotspot.

In order to have greater assurance and full oversight, and further to address the public's concerns, I am hereby respectfully requesting your good office to immediately commence with an external audit of the 40km Beitbridge Border Fence Project. I would appreciate it if the external audit could cover all aspects of the project process.

Yours sincerely,

P. de Lille.

Ms Patricia de Lille, MP
Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure
Date: 20 April 2020

CC: Advocate Sam Vukela
Director General: DPWI