



**MINISTER  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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21 August 2017

Dear Madam Speaker

**Decision on Diplomatic Immunity relating to an alleged assault case in Sandton**

I am writing this letter to inform you of my decision to confer immunities on the First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe. My decision to confer immunities was done in the exercise of and in accordance with the discretion granted to me by section 7(2) of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act.

The decision to confer immunities was taken after considering all relevant facts including the need to uphold the rule of law, ensure fair administration of justice and to uphold the rights of the complainant. South Africa's relations with our States in the region, in particular Zimbabwe, as well the need to ensure a successful hosting of the SADC Summit were also important considerations in the decision. I also had to consider international law rules that provided for derivative immunity of spouses of Heads of State.

My decision was taken after a careful weighing up of all of these facts and circumstances. It was a difficult decision but one which, all things considered, had to be made.

I stand ready to offer any assistance to you in the carrying out of your mandate.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maite Nkoana-Mashabane'.

**Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, MP**

Hon. Ms Baleka Mbete, MP  
Speaker of the National Assembly  
Parliament  
**CAPE TOWN**