**RESPONSE FROM HON. N PAULSEN (RECEIVED ON 20 MAY 2021 AT 12:02)**

1. I, Mogamad Nazier Paulsen am an opposition Member of Parliament of the Republic of South Africa.
2. During a Sitting of Parliament on Tuesday, 2 March 2021 the following unfolded:
	1. Early in the Sitting I disputed the pronunciation of the word “Gqeberha” with Ms Phumzile Van Damme.
	2. She did not agree with my pronunciation.
	3. I then said that my pronunciation is fine when I am in Lesotho
	4. I then focused on the debates taking place.
	5. Shortly afterwards the Chief Whip of the Opposition, Natasha Mazzone told me to crawl back into the hole I came from.
	6. I responded that the Chief Whip of the Opposition can crawl back to Italy.
	7. Ms Van Damme then tells the Chief Whip of the Opposition that I said that the Chief Whip of the Opposition should go back to Italy and that I said the Respondent should go back to Swaziland.
	8. The Chief Whip of the Opposition then stood up on a point of order to convey the respondent’s words to the Deputy Speaker of Parliament.
	9. The Chief Whip of the Opposition’s husband, Kevin Mileham charges at me upon hearing this and stops when I get up from my seat.
	10. The Chief Whip of the Opposition then comes to shield Mr Mileham after I get up from my seat.
	11. The Chief Whip of the Opposition completely distorts the unfolding of events claiming that I charged at a member of her party.
	12. The Deputy Speaker admonished the Opposition Party for their provocation.
	13. I then said that the Chief Whip of the Opposition’s husband is lucky that she stopped him because if she had not stopped Mr. Mileham, she would have slept alone that night.
	14. The Deputy Speaker then ordered me to leave the Chambers.
	15. I got up and walked towards the door much to the delight of Ms Van Damme and her party as she clapped and cheered.
	16. The Deputy Speaker then orders that Ms Van Damme to also leave the Chambers.
	17. I then stop to gesture to the Respondent that we leave the Chambers together.
	18. Ms Van Damme wilfully and maliciously misinterprets this gesture as a threat that I would beat her.
	19. I then leave the Chambers and retreat to the courtyard/smoking area outside
	20. Ms Van Damme then comes out charging at me and calling me a “cunt”
	21. Two of her colleagues, Mr Chris Hunsinger and Murgen Chetty then restrain her.
	22. I walked away from the scene and went to my car to leave the Parliamentary Precinct.
	23. I was shocked that Ms Van Damme would behave is such a manner and persist with her aggression outside of the Parliamentary Chambers.
3. I remained traumatized that evening, not just by the Ms Van Damme aggression or verbal abuse, but also her spurious allegations.
4. On the 3 March 2021, at about 4 pm, Ms Van Damme shares a newspaper article on Twitter and tags me in the tweet only to accuse me of badgering her when I responded.
5. Ms Van Damme then repeats her spurious accusations and calls me a “cunt’ again.
6. I then attempt to diffuse the situation on Twitter but she proceeds to call me “scum”.
7. Ms Van Damme also calls me a “thug” claiming I charged at Mr Mileham.
8. Video footage clearly shows that I was seated when Mr Mileham charged at me.
9. Ms Van Damme claims that she has Post Traumatic Syndrome Disorder and that I have triggered her reaction by threatening her.
10. I would neither threaten to abuse nor abuse a woman.
11. Her spurious allegations are an attempt of to sully my name and cast aspersions on my character
12. I fear that Ms Van Damme would attack me and this has made my work environment unsafe for me and continue her unwarranted attacks on.
13. All other claims made by Ms Mazzone, as imaginative as it is, are spurious and actually just another attempt at painting a black man as some uncouth creature.
14. I want the Powers and Privileges committee to sanction Ms Mazzone, who is known for distorting fact, for her slander.