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PARLIAMENT
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29 April 2012

Mr Raseriti Tau
Chairperson
NCOP Ad Hoc Committee on Protection of State Information Bill

BY EMAIL

Dear Honourable Tau,

The two parliamentary committee meetings allocated to deliberating and finalising the Protection of State Information Bill before the reporting deadline on 17 May are not enough.

This could create the public impression that we as a committee are rubberstamping and pushing through one of the most controversial pieces of legislation in our recent history.

I would hereby like to request that more time be set aside to ensure that the committee thoroughly and meaningfully deliberates the extraordinarily high volume of public submissions on the Bill.

The Ad Hoc Committee must also schedule adequate time for deliberating the content of the Bill itself and, if necessary, a clause-by-clause deliberation during which the necessary and required amendments can be made.

We have maintained from the outset that the time allocated to the Committee was insufficient to deal with the controversial piece of legislation. It is vital that additional time is allocated to provide enough opportunity for deliberation and amendments to the Bill.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Aif Lees, MP
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