

TO: Prof Firoz Cachalia – Acting Minister of Police  
CC: Ms Sefura Matlala, Ms Kamogelo Mogotsi  
DATE: 7 April 2026  
SUBJECT: Clarity as to Delay in Release of Independent Police Investigative Directorate’s Phala Phala Report

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Dear Minister Cachalia,

I write to you seeking clarity on why the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (“IPID”) is yet to release its recently declassified report into the conduct of the Presidential Protection Unit’s investigation of the Phala Phala robbery.

ActionSA has been pursuing this matter for nearly a year, starting in late April 2025 when we first submitted a Promotion of Access to Information Act (“PAIA”) application to request access to the report. In late May, a month later, IPID indicated that it sought a 30 day extension to consider the report’s release given that their e-mail systems were down. This only re-enforced our belief that transparency was not a priority of IPID’s.

Our initial request, once this 30-day deadline had passed, was then rejected upon the basis that the report had been classified by IPID as “Top Secret” in terms of the Minimum Information Security Standards and, as such, could not be released.

We then proceeded to formally submit an appeal which challenged the rejection of our PAIA application and also consulted our legal team to begin the process of drafting court papers.

It came as a surprise to us that the report had been declassified in February of 2026, not through a formal statement, but through a response to a Parliamentary question, which then prompted a press release explaining the decision. This once again underscored our belief (and the belief of many South Africans) that there are concerted efforts to keep this report under wraps.

ActionSA then proceeded to submit a second PAIA application to obtain the newly declassified report, only for our request to be extended by another 30 days. What we find evident through our requests being repeatedly refused and delayed is that IPID is not acting in the interest of transparency.

As such, we are hereby requesting your written clarity as to why IPID has not made the report available despite the fact that the lawful time frame within which a decision must be made in terms of our PAIA application has expired and in light of the change in classification, there is therefore no rational reason for requesting further time as IPID has done. Furthermore, we are requesting your written clarity as to whether IPID has indeed declassified the report or not as their conduct in regard to our PAIA application leads us to believe they may have not, indeed, declassified the report.

Either of these possibilities is a serious matter for which the South African people deserve answers. We anticipate your response in this regard.

Kind Regards,

Michael Beaumont

National Chairperson, ActionSA