



29 November 2024

Media Statement:

COPE Welcomes Developments in the Office of the Free State Premier

Immediate Release:

The wheels of justice may turn slowly, but COPE acknowledges the recent developments within the Office of the Premier.

Premier Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae has taken a leave of absence to clear her name following allegations of corruption, stemming from a breach of the Executive Members' Ethics Act, 82 of 1998. COPE has formally called for an investigation into her actions under Sections 3 and 4 of the Act, in conjunction with the powers granted to the Public Protector by the Public Protector Act, 23 of 1994.

Allegations of serious misconduct by Letsoha-Mathae, dating back to her tenure as MEC for the Department of Roads and Transport in the Free State, have been circulating since Friday, 11 October 2024. These reports, sourced from social media and media outlets, have revealed that a CEO of New Beginnings Projects allegedly received tenders from the Department of Public Service and Administration, subsequently channelling funds to support the Premier's family and political party. It has also been suggested that Tau-Pele Construction made significant payments to take over a project from the complainant.

Corruption remains a critical issue in the Free State, eroding public trust in state institutions and negatively affecting service delivery. The decision by Letsoha-Mathae to step down temporarily to address these allegations marks a significant step, reflecting COPE's firm stance against corruption.

It is evident that the ANC, driven by self-interest, is more concerned with enriching its members than with serving the public. As COPE, we will not stand idly by while ordinary citizens continue to suffer as a result of corruption, which directly affects the delivery of essential services to communities who vote politicians into power.

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