



06 November 2024

Media Statement:

PRESIDENT SILENT AS GOVERNMENT INCOMPETENCE THREATENS CHILDREN'S LIVES

For immediate release:

The unabating incidence of food poisoning in major townships is a severe cause for concern for people's well-being and health. Our children's vulnerability is exposed to greedy people who pursue profit at the expense of people's lives.

These incidents have been years in the making, as the government has failed to enforce regulations and the law consistently since 2009. The listeriosis crisis and the death of people in the recent past serve as a stark reminder.

Law enforcement is almost non-existent in most townships. Health and safety regulations violations are common at factories, spaza shops, as well as during major gatherings and normal social interactions.

The food safety crisis is symptomatic of a broader problem of neglect, maladministration, and bad governance, especially in the townships. Public safety awareness and the effective enforcement of health and safety regulations lie at the root of the crises.

Since 2009, successive administrations have failed at the implementation of both the urban development and rural development policies bequeathed to them by the Mandela and Mbeki administrations to ensure the equitable and sustainable development of these apartheid legacies.

The President is sitting on his laurels, and his silence during the tragic death of children is deafening, which shows an uncaring leader concerned with deal-making in the boardrooms rather than the safety of his nation's children.

COPE believes that the government must take immediate, proactive and clear action to address the food safety crises. The risk of these crises escalating further is a stark reality that cannot be ignored. A thorough investigation from the manufacture, packaging, distribution, and handling of foodstuffs must be urgently undertaken and regulations strengthened to put a stop to this crisis.

Issued By: Pakes Dikgetsi / 061 397 3252/ 082 302 2935

COPE Acting National Chairperson.

For More Information Contact: COPE Media / 061 994 7572

25 Medgate Centre. 05 Kingfisher Street, Helderkruijn, Roodeport, 1724

Johannesburg 2092



Tel: 083 450 1358



media@copesa.org.za



www.copesa.org