



10 March 2025

Media statement

## **COPE TO MEET PUBLIC PROTECTOR OVER COMPLAINT LODGED INTO BREACH OF EXECUTIVE CODE OF ETHICS BY PREMIER LETSOHA-MATHAE**

For Immediate Release

The Congress of the People (COPE) will be meeting with the Office of the Public Protector in the Free State tomorrow, following the complaint lodged on 13 October 2024 concerning allegations of tender manipulation and corruption against Free State Premier Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae.

This complaint stems from a breach of the Executive Members' Ethics Act, No. 82 of 1998, by Letsoha-Mathae, who is accused of being involved in corruption activities. COPE then requested an investigation into her conduct, in accordance with sections 3 and 4 of the Act, read together with the powers of the Public Protector as outlined in the Public Protector Act, No. 23 of 1994.

According to reports, a CEO of New Beginnings Projects has allegedly revealed that the company received tenders from the Department of Public Service and Administration, which, in turn, were used to fund Mrs Letsoha-Mathae's family and political party. It is also alleged that Tau-Pele Construction made a significant payment to take over a project from the complainant.

As a party, we view these allegations with the utmost seriousness and believe they fall squarely within the mandate of the Public Protector to investigate them as a matter of urgency.

COPE maintains that the Free State Premier should not have been reinstated until the investigation is concluded.

Corruption is a major problem in the Free State, and as a result, the public's trust in state institutions is quickly fading, which is affecting service delivery.


"We look forward to hearing the outcome of our complaint with the Office of the Public Protector tomorrow and will inform the public of the results," said COPE Acting Provincial Chairperson Mokalo Nathane.

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