



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GAUTENG SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO PROBE HOW COOPERATIVES UNKNOWN TO IT WERE 'APPOINTED' FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM

The Gauteng Department of Social Development is aware of an incident where a group of individuals arrived at the Department seeking payment for work, which they claim to have done.

“These individuals were reportedly selected by certain officials to produce school uniforms, despite a tender being in place of which successful bidders were appointed as service providers. This situation raises concerns about yet another incident of corruption and irregularities within the Department.

The MEC For Social Development, Agriculture, Rural Development and Agriculture, Mbali Hlophe said while the Department understands their frustration, there must be emphases on Department’s commitment to transparency and accountability in all its dealings.

“At present, there is no formal contract between the Department and these individuals, and they have not been forthcoming in exposing who the officials are who appointed them, and what competitive bidding process was taken resulting in their selection. We have initiated an investigation to identify wrongdoing and verify the work claims”, MEC said.

“Despite our repeated requests over the past three months, the group has been reluctant to cooperate, which is concerning and curious. Our priority remains to uphold the integrity of our processes and hold accountable those responsible for any breaches of regulations”.

“Rest assured, we are taking this matter seriously and will work diligently to uncover the truth and ensure compliance with Treasury regulations”.

“Characteristic of DA MPL Refiloe N'tseke who at all times turns a blind eye towards wrongdoers and allegations of corruption. Evidenced in her being a member of the Social Development portfolio committee for a decade and remaining mum on the seven (7) investigations that have taken place. She this time around attempts to pressure the Department into making irregular payments to individuals the Department has no contract in place with, instead of speaking against the glaring corruption of individuals been given work to do in dark corners with no due process followed as Treasury regulations.”

“We emphasize once again that the individuals must come clean and identify the official/s they claim appointed them to do work, so the wrongdoers and/or collusion can be dealt with,” said MEC emphasizing that the Department is committed to fostering transparency and clean governance within the Department and will not tolerate any form of misconduct or corruption.

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Issued by the Gauteng Department of Social Development. For media enquiries contact Mr. Themba Gadebe in the Office of MEC of Social Development, Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment on 081 522 6616