



EFF WELCOMES THE PRECAUTIONARY SUSPENSION OF NELSON MANDELA BAY CITY MANAGER NOXOLO NQWAZI DUE TO ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

Sunday, 22 October 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) welcomes the precautionary suspension of the fraud and corruption accused Noxolo Nqwazi, who is currently undergoing trial for the irregular procurement related to a toilet tender in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

On the 1st of June 2023, the EFF called for the immediate resignation of Nqwazi, citing the findings by the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) and her arrest by The Hawks on the basis that she approved a R24.6 million tender to procure 2000 toilets in the City during COVID-19, under the pretence of emergency procurement.

Shockingly, only 200 toilets were built, a fact that makes the irregular awarding of the tender itself not only worse, but reveals a corrupt and self-serving individual who uses the plight of the poor to amass wealth and practice patronage.

Nqwazi further utilised the proceeds from the irregular awarding of the tender to one HT Paletona Projects (PTY) LTD to bribe councillors who belonged to the ANC and the DA respectively, using her position as the manager of the finances of the city to build a corrupt network constituted by councillors.

Following her failure to find it in her conscience to resign willingly after the EFF granted her this opportunity, the EFF resolved that, through a motion in the Nelson Mandela Bay City Council, we would ensure her immediate removal. This was announced in an EFF Press Conference on the 27th of August 2023.

The EFF is, therefore, pleased to announce to the people of South Africa that following a special motion which was proposed by the EFF, Nqwazi was placed on suspension on the 20th of October 2023. This victory affirms the EFF as a leading force in fighting corruption and reaffirms our commitment to clean governance.

As alluded to in our first call for her resignation, the EFF forms part of government in Nelson Mandela Bay and we will never govern under the supervision of people who are criminally charged, and seek to preside over the finances of a city they are accused of defrauding.

The EFF notes the appointment of the Chief Operating Officer (COO) Christopher Dyani as Acting City Manager in Nelson Mandela Bay, and calls for governance to be stabilised in the City ahead of Nqwazi's inevitable and permanent removal and replacement.

However, we also note the allegations against Dyani of also being appointed irregularly by Nqwazi, through a manipulation of the appointment procedures following interviews. Further, he purportedly received an inappropriate salary increase shortly after his appointment, based on misleading information he provided to the Municipality surrounding his employment history.

The EFF will never allow a situation where the proxy of a corrupt individual is appointed to a critical position and remunerated on the basis of what is tantamount to fraud, particularly in a city we govern. The EFF will, as a result, explore all measures to test the veracity of these allegations and act accordingly once this has concluded.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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