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To: Ms Tamara Mathebula, Acting Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality

Memorandum: Request to investigate allegations of sex-for-jobs and sex-for-houses in the Eastern Cape.

The Democratic Alliance Women's Network (DAWN) requests that the Commission of Gender Equality immediately institutes an investigation into the practice of sex-for-jobs and sex-for-houses in the Eastern Cape.

Since January 2019 DAWN Eastern Cape has travelled the length and breadth of the province. During this time, we have been informed of many incidences of vulnerable and struggling women who have had to use their bodies as CV's to get work, specifically within the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP).

These damning revelations came to light during discussions with women, specifically in Komani, Reeston in East London and Missionvale in Nelson Mandela Bay. Female-headed households are especially vulnerable and these struggling women are being exploited by officials within the Eastern Cape Department of Public Works.

It was quite clear from our interactions with these women that they fear for their lives should they come forward.

We therefore request the Commission to start an investigation into the Eastern Cape Department of Public Works.

DAWN came across at least three examples of sex-for-jobs allegations in Komani, in the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality, and even though we met with the district Department of Roads and Public Works, no further feedback was received.

DAWN also came across the shocking practice of demanding sex-for-houses.



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In Komani three young women came forward and said they had slept with Enoch Migijima Local Municipality officials to receive RDP houses.

These women are desperate to find homes and therefore are willing to sell their bodies to find shelter for their families. Unfortunately they are now also being threatened by individuals who have been waiting many years for houses, who have now been bumped down the housing list by these corrupt officials.

We spoke to a woman who did not have sex-for-houses, but because someone else did so, she lost the house she was entitled to. The sex-for-houses scourge is thus a double edged sword.

We therefore also request an immediate investigation into the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality's Human Settlements Department.

Women are facing many challenges. They are being forced to sleep with men in authority, merely to obtain a job to provide for their families.

As DAWN in the Eastern Cape we condemn these actions and want to make it clear that women's bodies are not CV's for jobs.

Women deserve a better life and our objective is to create a society where women need not fear discrimination and abuse.

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