



**Agriculture &  
Rural Development**

Department:  
**Agriculture and Rural Development**  
North West Provincial Government  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



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The Chairperson

Portfolio Committee on Economic Development and Tourism and Agriculture and Rural  
Development

North West Provincial Legislature

Private Bag X2018

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2735

**Attention: Hon. KEB Lenkopane**

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON USAGE OF  
PRIVATE VEHICLE BY A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (MEC)**

Receipt of your letter dated 22 April 2020 on the above matter has reference.

This letter is therefore intended to provide response to matters of clarity raised on your letter as follows: -

**1. A comprehensive report on why the MEC is utilizing private vehicle to execute official duties which is in contrary with the current Guide for Members of the Executive**

1.1. During 2016/17 financial year, the Department purchased a Jeep Cherokee 3.2 Limited AWT A/T Registration No. JTG 632 NW through the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management. This vehicle was utilized by the

former MEC and was procured on recommendation from the COSATMA as similar vehicles were procured for six other MECs.

- 1.2. Immediately after the reshuffling of cabinet in December 2018, the vehicle was returned back to the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management as the custodian of the transport assets.
- 1.3. This vehicle was then allocated to the MEC for Health by COSATMA with no provision made for the MEC of Agriculture thereby resulting in her not having an official vehicle. Worth noting is that the vehicle that she used in the Department of Tourism was allocated to then incoming MEC.
- 1.4. The then HOD for the Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development offered the Honourable MEC another vehicle that was procured internally for official use and she showed no interest in using the vehicle and instead opted to use her own vehicle. This matter was raised several times and her position on the matter did not change, therefore the status quo remained.

## **2. Process that has been followed to grant permission for MEC to utilize private vehicle, supported by evidence/proof of granted permission**

- 2.1. Upon arrival of the Honourable MEC at the Department in December 2018, the Department had a brand new vehicle that had been purchased as a relief VIP vehicle for former the former MEC as per paragraph 3.2. below. This was never used and had only clocked less than 10 000 km on the speedometer. There was therefore no need for the Department to seek approval or permission for MEC to utilize her private Vehicle as the official vehicle was readily available. The Ministerial Handbook of 2007 was instead used.
- 2.2. At that time the Handbook allowed MECs to use their own vehicles and claim all distances travelled for official purposes in private vehicles at a tariff equal to 3 times the standard running and maintenance allowances.

**3. Report and Records on Departmental vehicle that was already purchased by the Department prior 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in line with Chapter 4 paragraph 2.9 of Guide for Members of the Executive**

- 3.1. As stated in 1.1., the Department purchased a Jeep Cherokee 3.2 Limited AWT A/T Registration No. JTG 632 NW through the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management and the vehicle was received towards the end of 2016/17 financial year. This vehicle was utilized by the former MEC and was procured on recommendation from the COSATMA as similar vehicles were procured for six other MECs.
- 3.2. However during the execution of her work, it came to light that the vehicle was not suitable for all types of roads, especially farm roads and there was therefore a need for the Department to procure a relief VIP vehicle that would be used by the Honourable MEC to travel in terrains that the Jeep Cherokee would not be able to travel in. It was for this reason that the Department embarked on a process of internally procuring a Ford Ranger Wildtrack which was more suitable for farm visitation and was also used as a VIP relief vehicle when the main vehicle was out for service or repairs.
- 3.3. The vehicle was received by the Department of 30/06/2017 and was registered as a Departmental vehicle with a civil registration number JVR 829 NW. The vehicle was further tinted as per the requirement for MECs vehicles and fitted with a blue lamp and a siren.
- 3.4. The existence of this vehicle was brought to the attention of the Acting HOD upon his arrival in September 2019 and he also did not take action in this regard.
- 3.5. Instead the Acting HOD then subsequently directly instructed the Transport Officer to register the vehicle as a state vehicle and to not allocate it or any new vehicle to anyone without consulting him first. The change of registration was subsequently done and the sirens and blue lamps were removed. This luxurious vehicle with a new registration of GRB 631MW, previously JVR829NW is now being solely used by the HODs's office and is allocated to the newly appointed

Deputy Director in his office. See attached copy of the route form – **Annexure A.**

**4. A detailed report on cost incurred by the Department for usage of Vehicles 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 up to date**

The Department has for the 2019/20 financial year only incurred a total amount of R1 009 233.62 claimed by the Honourable MEC for utilization of own vehicle. The following are costs are just an indication of Honourable MEC's claim from November 2019 to date:

<b>Nr</b>	<b>Travelling period</b>	<b>Total Claim</b>
1.	November 2019	R43 269.95
2.	December 2019	R26 810.35
3.	January 2020	R42 870.66
4.	February 2020	R31 850.28
5.	March 2020	R26 779.39
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>R171 580.63</b>

See attached PERSAL report – **Annexure B**

**5. Corrective measures that are in place regarding this matter and their current status thereof.**

5.1. Upon receipt of documentation on the guidelines on the purchase of official vehicles for the members of the executives from the COSATMA and National Treasury on 06 March 2020, my office packaged the information and sent the email to the Acting HOD and the Director in the Office of the MEC requesting

them to engage MEC and choose an appropriate vehicle from the existing RT57 contract on the same day. The email further cautioned the two that the new handbook issued in November 2020 does not make provision for utilisation of own vehicle by MEC so we are expected to hire a vehicle for MEC. This was not responded to by all and sundry.

- 5.2. It was only on receipt of an enquiry from the Portfolio Committee that my office was requested to yet again submit the guideline which I responded to by resending the previous email. I was subsequently requested to choose the vehicle and compile a letter to COSATMA for HOD's sign-off requesting them to facilitate the purchase of the Vehicle for the MEC. The letter is attached as **Annexure C** and is now en-route to the COSATMA for actioning.
- 5.3. As a remedial action, my office further made an enquiry from COSATMA on availability of any relief vehicle, and they indicated that the vehicle that MEC used whilst at Department of Tourism has been serviced and is now available for use. This message was relayed to the Acting HOD on Thursday. He since promised to engage the Honourable MEC and come back to me but has not yet done so.

Yours in good governance,



**MS. KS KOIKANYANG**  
**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**2020/04/29**

**DATE**