



## GAUTENG PROVINCE

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Ms LN Mekgwe, MPL**

**Speaker**

Gauteng Provincial Legislature  
Private Bag X52  
Johannesburg  
2000

Dear Madam Speaker

### **RESPONSE TO LEGISLATURE QUESTION 5. PR017 TABLED BY MEMBER A RANDALL OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (DA)**

Regarding the Premier's Ethics Advisory Council, please provide the following:

- (i) where all the Premier's Ethics Advisory Council programmes implemented in the 2022/23 financial year;

#### **Response**

One of the responsibilities of the Gauteng Ethics Advisory Council require that the GEAC report biennially to the citizens on the state of ethics, integrity and clean governance in the Gauteng City Region. The GEAC published its Biennial Report during 2022 which, amongst others, outlines the progress, successes, challenges, and upcoming plans on the implementation of its Programme of Action. The report is publicly available.

- (ii) if not, provide reasons why.

#### **Response**

Please refer to response (i) above.

- (iii) if yes, what exactly has been implemented;

#### **Response**

Please refer to response (i) above.

- (iv) **provide proof of success since implementation of Gauteng Ethics and Anti-Corruption Advisory Council;**

**Response**

Please refer to response (i) above.

- (v) **has the Gauteng Provincial Government started with the roll-out lifestyle audits in all departments; and**

**Response**

The Office of the Premier has considered that lifestyle audits should be conducted following a risk-based approach. As such, the lifestyle audits for the Members of the Executive Council, Director General, Heads of Departments and Chief Executive Officers of GPG entities is centralised at the Office of the Premier. This process is being implemented in a phased-in approach as follows:

- The first phase involved the Premier and all Members of the Executive Council. The State Security Agency (SSA) was authorised to conduct lifestyle audits on the Premier and all Members of the Executive Council (MECs). The SSA has finalised this process. However, I indicated during the 2023 State of the Province Address (SOPA) that the three new MECs will undergo a similar process to ensure that the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) conclude this matter.
- The current phase of lifestyle audits involves the Director General, Heads of Department and Chief Executive Officers of GPG entities. The Office of the Premier has considered that the Special Investigating Unit has competency to assist with the process of conducting lifestyle audits. As a credible government institution, the SIU has agreed to the request to assist with the lifestyle audits for the Accounting Officers / Authorities.
- The next phase will involve other SMS members. The Director-General at the Office of the Public Service Commission has appointed one central person to coordinate the lifestyle audit process for the SMS officials. A uniform template will be issued for departments to populate information of SMS members identified for lifestyle audit purposes. The Office of the Premier will work with all the GPG departments to manage this process.
- The Office of the Premier has also considered that lifestyle audits must include officials at SCM as this is a high-risk area. The GPG departments have been advised to use the

financial disclosure verification reports as these will assist to provide red flags on officials that should be recommended for lifestyle audits. GPG departments have been requested to ensure that lifestyle audits are implemented to all these high-risk officials. The DPSA has also been engaged to capacitate the Ethics Officers from GPG departments.

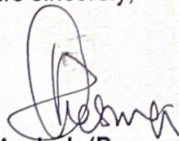
(vi) is there a funded programme to protect and incentivise whistle-blowing in the province?

**Response**

There is no funded programme to protect and incentivise whistleblowing in the province. However, whistle-blowers can report allegations of wrongdoing through the Gauteng Ethics Hotline and National Anti-Corruption Hotline. These are safe avenues for reporting any matters that should be considered for investigation within the Gauteng Provincial Government.

It is also important to highlight that the Office of the Premier has noted that the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), through its Public Administration Ethics, Integrity, and Disciplinary Technical Assistance Unit (PAEIDTAU) is responsible for, amongst others, to facilitate the inclusion of public servants in the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) Witness Protection Programme. The Office of the Premier is therefore in a position to engage the DPSA to facilitate the process of inclusion of the witnesses who may need protection in the NPA's Witness Protection Programme.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Andrek (Panyaza) Lesufi, MPL  
PREMIER**

Date:

26/07/23