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Bukiwe Fanta
Eastern Cape MEC for Social Development
Dukumbana Building
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Memorandum: Our people are dying, cut the Cost of Living to save lives!

The Democratic Alliance (DA) hereby submits the following memorandum to the office of the Eastern Cape MEC for Social Development.

Background:

South Africa, and specifically the Eastern Cape, are facing a worsening cost-of-living crisis that is leading to such desperate poverty and despair that people are allegedly taking the lives of their children to save them from starving to death.

The tragedy that struck the Tholeni Administrative area in Butterworth in August of this year, where a mother allegedly poisoned her three young children, before taking her own life, apparently motivated by extreme poverty, should never have happened.

Last month a young mother from Port St Johns allegedly killed three of her children by poisoning after which she committed suicide, also apparently motivated by extreme poverty.

While our children starve and die, the ANC government drags its feet on reforms that would make a real difference in the cost of basic goods and enable poverty-stricken families to put food on the table.

Interventions and solutions:

Given the ANC government's inability and unwillingness to deal with the cost-of-living crisis, the DA has proposed several interventions and solutions that, if implemented, will save our fellow citizens from further suffering.

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Solutions to the crisis include:

- Cut taxes and levies on fuel to reduce the cost of transporting food;
- Reallocate the R50 million food aid for Cuba to feed hungry people at home;
- Scrap VAT on the food items most commonly purchased by the poorest households by reviewing and expanding the zero-rated food basket;
- Review and reduce import tariffs on foods consumed by low-income households;
- Provide private titles to all land reform beneficiaries to increase food supply and security while reducing prices;
- Increase the child support grant, raising it from R500 to the same level as the official food poverty line;
- Identify available land at community centres and schools for food gardens;
- Invest more in subsistence farming as a poverty-alleviation strategy that can increase household food supplies and income if properly implemented.

We submit this memorandum to the office of the MEC for Social Development and will also make sure that the Minister of Social Development receives a copy. We request that the MEC engage with her cabinet colleagues at a provincial and national level to finally implement solutions to this crisis that is slowly killing our fellow citizens.

Kind Regards,

**ANDREW WHITFIELD MP
DA PROVINCIAL LEADER: EASTERN CAPE**

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