



# **30 YEARS** of broken promises and laws

# Introduction

As the country readies itself for Freedom Day, you, and I, are faced with a myriad of decisions. Many of these decisions are difficult, but as with medicine, the patient does require it to heal. Gauteng's medicine will be the truth.

The truth of the matter at hand is that Freedom Day celebrations will be filled with self-aggrandizing accolades and fanfare for failures. Beyond that, this report aims to arm you, and the public with the truth behind 30 years of democracy.

In 30 years South Africa has grown, and Gauteng has comparably exploded into what was supposed to be enormous growth. That hasn't been the case. One may ask why, but the why is an intricate web of lies, deceptions, half-truths, and deeply entrenched corruption. The truth of what has transpired over the last 30 years in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature is that pundits of false narratives have been building up to this moment. They have built a story that is fast crumbling. When the stage is set for Freedom Day celebrations on Saturday, 27 April 2024, our responsibility as both the opposition and citizens bound by the constitution is to interrogate what they call facts.

This report is a reference document to do exactly that. Within you will find the facts of what they have done, what they have said they will do, and what they have failed to do. We are no longer impressed by lofty promises and grand ideals, we need real solutions to the very real problems South Africa faces. The 29th of May will be a defining moment in the history of South Africa.

For the first time, the ANC has fallen below 50% and they are desperate, that much is clear. While we want to believe that truth the truth will out, we are also aware of who we're dealing with. The very same people who sold the country out are now vying for blood this election. They may not draw blood, nor may they continue to infect the lifeblood of our province with their inability to lead. Knowledge is power, and now you know.

**They will always promise but never deliver.**

# Index

The content of this report first outlines lies told, and false promises made by the Gauteng Provincial Government, then lists cases of corruption they have been faced with Government's Broken Promises.

## **LIE-SUFI**

**1. 2023**

**2. 2024**

## **MAKHURA**

**3. 2022**

**4. 2019**

## **MOKOYANE**

**5. 2009 - 2014**

## **PAUL MASHATILE**

## **MBHAZIMA SHILOWA**

### **Corruption**

**1. 2006 - 2010**

**2. 2009**

**3. 2012**

**4. 2017**

**5. 2019**

**6. 2020**

**7. 2021**

**8. 2023**

**9. 2024**

# A Government of

# Broken Promises....

## LIE-SUFI

### **2023- Key promises made when he took office:**

The speeding up of payment of invoices to service providers.

- Our service providers, particularly those who do business with the Department of Health, do not receive payment for their services on time. This means that our hospitals will have essential services withheld because service providers are not paid on time. For instance, only 35% of service providers' invoices without dispute were paid within 30 instead of 80%.
- The Auditor General's report paints a bad picture of the Department's financial management. The report shows that the Department had R2.26 billion in irregular expenditure, R15 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and a staggering 26,293 invoices for R2.5 billion that were undisputed but still not paid after 30 days or the agreed period. This indicates that the Department has failed to fulfill Lesufi's promise of timely payments to service providers. To change the face of the province's five hostels.
- In 2014, the provincial government embarked on a programme to refurbish hostels and convert them into family units. Former Gauteng Human Settlements MEC Paul Mashatile announced that R165 million would be spent to convert the hostels.
- According to SABC news, hostels in Soweto, the Dube, Jabulani and Meadowlands were identified for development, but the project was later abandoned. In Meadowlands, R13.7 million was earmarked to be spent developing over 3 444 units. This was in addition to R31.8 million that had already been spent on improving the hostel. In Diepsloot, R22 million was allocated.
- In 2019, the Gauteng Human Settlement MEC Dikgang Moiloa said the lack of proper management caused the project to be abandoned. Gauteng hostel residents continue to live in appalling, inhumane, and unsanitary conditions, and there is nothing to show for the promised upgrades.

To date, not much has been done to improve the conditions in hostels across the province. Hostel residents live in inhumane and unsanitary conditions that pose severe health risks to them. There is no access to water and electricity in some of our hostels with infrastructure that is old and dilapidated. The safety of residents is often under serious threat, there is a high rate of crime that includes murder and prostitution.

**The Democratic Alliance (DA) has been demanding that the Premier address the appalling, inhumane, and unsanitary conditions in all of Gauteng's hostels. Despite this, the Premier continues to divert responsibility by stating that his government is only responsible for six hostels (George Goch, Denver, Jeppe, MBA, LTA Rethabile, and Murray and Roberts) that receive daily maintenance and environmental upkeep to make them habitable.**

The Premier appears to have forgotten his promise to address the hostel residents' inequalities and terrible living conditions in the Gauteng Hostel Redevelopment Strategy and the Hostel Redevelopment. The programme is led by the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements and Infrastructure Development. As an MEC of Education in July 2022 premier promised that online school applications would run smoothly with no glitches or hassles.



# LIE-SUFI

## 2023- Key promises made when he took office:

As MEC of Education in July 2022 premier promised that online school applications would run smoothly with no glitches or hassles.

- Every year since its inception, the school year has been marked by frustrated parents and learners alike at the start of the academic year due to not being placed or being placed late.
- In 2023, the department failed to reach a 100% admission rate, resulting in parents and guardians taking their children to independent and private schools. In 2023, the Premier made a promise to reclaim the number one spot in the National Senior Certificate results.
- Free State once again was the leading province with an 89.0% pass rate compared to Gauteng's 85.4%. Allocate R500 million for the creation and operation of spaza shops by South Africans.
- Lesufi misled the National Council of Provinces last year when he indicated that R650 million was set aside for South Africans to reclaim the spaza shop space. During his oral reply to questions tabled in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, the Premier indicated that R6 million had been allocated to the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) for the 2023/2024 financial year, for the township retail programme. Furthermore, he indicated that the R650 million is the total amount that has been pooled from both the government and the private sector in the Township Economic Partnership Fund. In November 2023, Lesufi came under fire for claiming that outstanding electricity bills owed by residents in the province had been scrapped.
- In a video posted to Twitter Lesufi can be heard saying that "all" customer debts owing to Eskom "for years" had been scrapped. "All the people that were owing Eskom for years...All those debts have now been officially scrapped... We've [the ANC] championed that. We are starting on a new slate, all of us," Lesufi said.
- This was a blatant lie that he later backtracked on. Eskom said it had not communicated anything regarding the scrapping of household debts to the power utility. The entity was faced with dealing with municipal debt amounting to R58.5 billion.

# 2024

In the 2024 State of the Province Address (SOPA), the Gauteng Premier announced that the province would buy 18 private hospitals.

- “We have just signed an agreement that will see the Gauteng government buying back 18 private hospitals in the province,” Lesufi said.
- “We will convert these into public hospitals so that we are ready for the implementation of the National Health Insurance scheme.
- This promise is not only absurd, it is also unfeasible.
- We remain committed to releasing the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) reports and will continue to implement the recommendations of the final investigation reports. We have put measures in place to address the identified weak internal controls and refer matters to the Special Tribunal to assist with the recovery of funds lost to Covid 19.
- He also promised that 18 new schools would be built as part of the R1.5 billion investment.
- Yet asbestos schools remain a problem in this province. In addition, many schools in this province are overcrowded, which is not conducive to learning and teaching. Again, maintenance is not done properly, leading to the department having to provide mobile classrooms and bathrooms to some of our schools.
- Similarly, the Gauteng Department of Education’s commitment to replace schools with asbestos by 2016 has not been fulfilled, years after the deadline. As of 2023, only four schools have been rebuilt, and 22 remain outstanding.
- Most affected schools are concentrated in townships like Soweto, Tembisa, Thokoza, Kathlehong, Vosloorus, Mamelodi, and Hammanskraal.
- R65.8 billion has been allocated to the Gauteng Department of Education, but MEC Mamabolo has not mentioned how this will eradicate asbestos schools and improve the state of learning and teaching in the province. Despite many promises made by Premier Panyaza Lesufi that there are concrete plans in place to curb the unemployment rate in the province, his interventions, like the Nasi Ispani programme, are not working.

# 2024

- The Gauteng Department of Economic Development is receiving a total of R1,7 billion to improve the township economy, industrial parks, and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which are meant to create more job opportunities. Yet, the SEZs and industrial parks are in a state of disrepair, which means that the budget previously allocated was not used properly. This is one of the departments that continuously fails to meet job creation targets.

- Lesufi has additionally made grand promises to tackle crime. His 2024 SOPA highlighted that the focus during this 6th administration was on fighting crime with the five-year Gauteng Policing Plan and increase resources to police stations to fight crime. He went on to report that the panic buttons promised in his 2023 SOPA has been rolled out. The government had allocated R1.5 billion rands on a range of purchases, including drones, helicopters, panic buttons, and the services of about 6,000 crime wardens.

Between his 2023 and 2024 SOPA, the following crimes occurred:

- Weekly killings in Riverlea, Eldorado Park, and Westbury are due to gangsterism.
- Two boys were mutilated in Soweto, and a girl's vagina was cut in Tembisa.
- An Angelo explosion due to illegal mining killed 17 people.
- A woman was murdered at the same spot as her mother years before.
- Four gunmen were robbing people in peak-time traffic near this house.

These are real-life incidents and merely a drop in the ocean compared to all the incidents that transpired over the past 12 months. They do not paint a picture of a province fighting crime, but one that has lost the fight against crime. Premier Lesufi boasts about the drones, yet this is nothing, but another lie that was sold to the hopeless residents living in fear. The premier in his 2023 State of the Province Address (SOPA) stated that procurement of 180 state-of-the-art drones were in the advanced stages of procurement. This is far from the truth as the 2023/24 1st quarterly report revealed





In his 2022 SOPA Premier Makhura promised to deliver an inclusive mega housing development, fast-track the delivery of urban renewal projects, complete incomplete housing projects and provide service sites for people to build houses themselves.

- These are the same empty promises that he made before that will never happen. Many incomplete and completed housing projects are still standing empty and have not been allocated. Several completed and unoccupied housing units across the province have been illegally invaded and some have been vandalised. The illegal occupants are costing the department more money in terms of legal fees for eviction orders, eviction processes as well as repairs for the damages. Premier Makhura promised to deliver a mega housing development, the same promise he made in 2018 that a total of 31 new mega settlement projects have been approved for all the five development corridors of the Gauteng City Region. Premier Makhura promised that the mega housing projects would yield more than 700,000 housing opportunities over five years. The Housing Megaprojects have been blocked by red tape and contractors not finishing projects on time and within budget.

# MAKHURA

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- The R11 billion Montrose Mega City project in Middelvlei (Randfontein), was launched in 2017 to great fanfare by then Gauteng premier David Makhura and then housing MEC Paul Mashatile. During the launch, Makhura promised that 13 000 homes would be built, from social housing to bonded homes, RDP walk-ups and military veterans' houses. The project was also supposed to have included a primary and a high school, a "business zone", a government complex and, later on, hospitals and an FET college.
- Today, the R11-billion Montrose Mega City project remains incomplete and abandoned. The units, which were never completed, have been vandalised and illegally occupied. Electricity cables, copper cables, stoves, doors, solar geysers, lights, toilets, doors and windows from some units have been stolen.
- According to reports, the developer abandoned the project after construction began as a result of a lack of funds due to demands from the so-called construction mafia.
- Gauteng MEC for Human Settlements and Infrastructure Development, Lebogang Maile, in his written reply to questions by the Democratic Alliance revealed that construction "mafia" or business forums have disrupted nine government construction sites, totalling more than R2.5 billion over the past five years, forcing some of the legitimate contractors to abandon the projects.
- In addition, MEC Lebogang Maile revealed in his written reply to questions from the DA's provincial spokesperson for housing that the Gauteng Human Settlements Department can only build 10 000 houses a year, while the provincial housing backlog stands at more than 1.2 million. (August 2022)
- In this reply, Maile said there were 1 263 660 potential beneficiaries, some of whom had been on the waiting list since 1996. The current housing need in the Gauteng Province is estimated to be 878,246 homes, comprising those households which are living in informal conditions (informal settlements and informal backyard rentals). Of these the majority are located in the three Metros.

# MAKHURA

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- Gauteng is littered with incomplete and abandoned infrastructure projects, costing millions of rands and providing no benefit to the people of the province. These projects are a monument to the dysfunctionality and inefficiency of Gauteng's Department of Infrastructure Development. Infrastructure projects play a pivotal role in creating employment opportunities. Failed infrastructure projects lead to diminished service delivery and impacts negatively on the economy.
- The Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development (GDID) had been repeatedly criticized for its selection of poorly performing contractors who failed to complete projects, yet still received massive payouts. This cycle of incompetence and corruption had become a disturbingly common phenomenon in the province.

He further promised to clear the title deeds backlog by 2024, including issuing 44,339 new title deeds to beneficiaries of current housing projects.

- This is just another empty promise as the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements has never achieved any of its targets of handing out title deeds since Premier Makhura was elected to office in 2014.
- From the departmental Annual Report (2022/23) the department failed to achieve 34 (72%) of its 47 planned targets.
- A total of 1 753 (22%) serviced sites were delivered against an Annual Performance Plan (APP) target of 8 019 which is recorded as 10 002 in the Human Settlements Development Grant Business Plan (HSDG BP). A total of 548 (64%) serviced sites were acquired in the Rapid Land Release Programme (RLRP) against a target of 860. A nett total of 2301 serviced sites were therefore delivered inclusive of rapid land release programme serviced sites, whilst a total of 6 625 Breaking New Ground (BNG) units were delivered against a target of 8 421 in the APP recorded as 9 584 in the HSDG BP. Blocked and abandoned projects delivered a total of 357 (52%) against a planned APP target of 692.

# MAKHURA

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- 41 informal settlements were provided with interim sanitation services compared to target of 69 informal settlements.

Once again, a commitment was made to ensure growth in this province's township economy.

- However, when we look at our quarterly reports, the spending on our township economy is often not achieved. Instead, there should be a focus on cutting the red tape that inhibits the growth of township businesses. We must allow our small businesses to flourish without going to bigger companies to get a tiny piece of the pie.

## 2019

In his 2019 State of the Province Address, Premier David Makhura promised to scrap the e-toll system. This promise was broken several times since the inception of this vanity project.

- While the e-toll system on the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project (GFIP) was scrapped at midnight on the 11 April, it is unclear how the government plans to collect this e-toll debt and if motorists who paid their e-toll accounts will be refunded, particularly if the e-toll debt of motorists who did not pay is forgiven and/or written off by government.
- In March 2024, it was announced that Sanral, the Gauteng government and Treasury had finalised an agreement for the debt payment. According to the agreement, the Gauteng government agreed to pay 30% of the GFIP debt (an estimated R12.9 billion), while Treasury was expected to pay 70%.

Makhura's promises is the provincial government's long-standing commitment to developing the township business economy. Major commitments were that the province would spend 30% of its procurement on township businesses and pass the Gauteng Township Economy Development Act.

# MAKHURA

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## 2019

Closely tied to the issue of township economy development, is youth unemployment. Makhura's third promise was to get 250,000 young people in the province in employment through the Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator and the Youth Employment Service (YES). An ambitious target when they could not deliver on Tshepo 1Million. When the programme started, the target was 10,000 people, then it went from 500,000 to one million people.

- The programme was launched in 2014 as Tshepo 500 000 for skills training, job placement, and entrepreneurship development and further developed as Tshepo 1Million in 2017.
- According to the 2022/23 annual report for the Office of the Premier, the Tshepo 1 Million programme has not met the Technical Indicator Descriptor (TID) requirements and failed to meet the consistency test.
- The annual report for the 2022/2023 financial year notes that this programme in conjunction with Harambee, was terminated on 31 March 2023. In addition, a transition plan to wind down the Tshepo 1 Million is currently underway.
- The fact that there are no numbers for this programme for the year under review raises many questions. This means this programme was a waste of money, and only a handful benefited.
- For the 2019/2020 financial year the programme, the Office of the Premier failed to meet its target of training 200 000 economically excluded youth.

A close-up portrait of Nomvula Mokonyane, a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses and red lipstick. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**NOMVULA MOKONYANE**

## **2009- 2014**

Premier Nomvula Mokonyane was dubbed the “queen of empty promises” by Democratic Alliance (DA) Gauteng spokesperson Jack Bloom following her State of the Province address.

In 2012 she promised that her administration would launch a major intervention to create 100 000 job opportunities for youths in Gauteng.

- In January 2013, she suspended Khulu Radebe, the head of the Department of Economic Development and the man charged with implementing the project, as a precautionary measure as forensic investigators probed the implosion of the R90 million scheme.
- DA spokesman Jack Bloom said that last year the DA raised the red flag over the department’s failure to place 10 000 youths in jobs due to budgetary constraints and delays.

In 2009, the Premier promised “the revitalisation of Ekandustria” and also said she would “rehabilitate the Babelegi Industrial Park”. In the same year, she promised “a turn-around strategy to revitalize clinics and hospitals, reduce long queues and improve the availability of essential drugs and medical equipment”.

Year in year out she continued to talk about a turn-around strategy.

## **2009- 2014**

- EMS response under 30 minutes rate for both urban and rural is still sub-par at 51.8% and 81.8% respectively.

In 2010, she apologised ‘most profoundly’ for late payments after she made a promise to address late payments.

- At the time, there were 9 484 accounts of hospital suppliers not paid, amounting to more than R1bn.

The Department of Health is still faced with a number of challenges. GDoH faces financial risk and instability due to medico-legal claims and other issues, amounting to a contingent liabilities balance of over R18 billion in the 2022/23 financial year.

Gauteng Health and Wellness MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko revealed this in a response to follow-up questions in the Gauteng Legislature that 11 provincial public hospitals have paid R1.7 million for over-priced food from a business training company in Limpopo. Bloom says It is ridiculous to buy over-priced food from a dodgy contract in another province when there are many local food suppliers with competitive prices in Gauteng.

**PAUL  
MASHATILE**



## **PAUL MASHATILE**

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“We commit to delivering the 50 000 housing units during the current financial year, and victory in the establishment of Mega Cities in this great province is most certainly within sight,” Mashatile said during the tabling of the department’s budget in 2016.

He highlighted a strategic shift towards mega housing projects which would yield more than 15 000 units to supplement his 50 000 goal. It represented a shift away from smaller, sporadic housing projects to large-scale developments which, it was envisioned, would yield entire cities.

- Mashatile said at the time that most of the projects would be completed in the next 10 years.
- Mashatile never achieved these goals. Most of the mega housing projects created under Mashatile’s tenure and in partnership with the GPF are still incomplete, years after inception.



## **MBHAZIMA SHILOWA**

Mbhazima Shilowa in a provincial lekgotla meeting in 2006 had agreed that crime in Gauteng was unacceptably high. At the time Shilowa promised to drastically reduce the levels of crime to ahead of the Soccer World Cup in 2010. In 2007, he promised that all Gauteng patients with chronic diseases would be in possession of a smart card containing all their medical history. Administration clerks would simply swipe this card to access the patient’s information without having to open a new file. In addition, the dispensary would immediately be of the patient in question’s presence and pharmacists would begin packing the patient’s medical supplies before arrival.



## **MBHAZIMA SHILOWA**

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In 2008, Mashile would make the same promise stating that there will be a roll out of the Health Information System and smart cards for all the people of Gauteng.

Between 2014- 2022 David Makhura would also make the following health related promises:

- Stabilise the finances of the department.
- The digitisation of patient files is currently underway and will be completed in all public hospitals in Gauteng by 2019.
- Including the ICT as part of our programme of modernising public services and e- governance.
- e-health programme, which includes the introduction of electronic patient record.
- Reduce waiting time and queues.

The state of public healthcare in Gauteng Province has long been a source of deep concern, with successive political administrations making bold promises to overhaul the ailing system, only to be met with a frustrating pattern of broken commitments and worsening conditions. From failed technological initiatives to crumbling infrastructure and rampant corruption, the province's public health services have been plagued by a litany of failures, each one exacting a heavy toll on the lives of vulnerable citizen.

As David Makhura assumed the role of Premier of Gauteng in 2014, he inherited a provincial health department in crisis. His predecessor, Nomvula Mokonyane, had made ambitious promises to “stabilise the finances of the department” and “reduce waiting time and queues,” including the pledged digitisation of all patient files by 2019. However, these goals remained largely unfulfilled, with the department continuing to grapple with a range of systemic challenges. This was not the first time that such promises were being made. In 2015, MEC Qedani Mahlangu boldly declared that all paper files would be replaced by a real-time integrated digital system, slashing waiting times to just 10 minutes. Even then, they failed to implement the promised electronic patient management system. As the first term of the Makhura administration drew to a close, the Gauteng Health Department remained in crisis, with broken promises, staff shortages, infrastructure woes, and entrenched corruption continuing to undermine the provision of quality healthcare services across the province.

# A corrupt government

The failing ANC-led administration in Gauteng has a notoriously poor track record of holding individuals to account and taking action. This administration lacks the political will to do what is right for the people of Gauteng. The ANC's governance in Gauteng has been characterized by corruption, mismanagement, and a lack of accountability. In the 2022/23 financial year, Gauteng incurred irregular expenditures amounting to R5.7 billion which was largely the result of deviations from normal procurement processes and non-compliance to procurement processes.

In their 2023 annual report, Corruption Watch reported that the distribution of corruption reports across provinces, Gauteng once again comes out on top with 37% of complaints the highest levels of corruption complaints, by far. Gauteng recorded the main types of corruption as the following:

- Fraud (19%);
- Bribery/extortion (16%);
- Maladministration (13%);
- Abuse of power (10%);
- Procurement irregularities (9%).

For the 2011-12 financial year, the province finalised only 524 of the 1417 corruption tip-offs received on the Anti-Corruption Hotline, which was set up by premier Nomvula Mokonyane. The roads and transport department attracted the highest number of corruption tip-offs after notching up 474 tip-offs. However, only 184 were closed.

The report, presented by the Public Service Commission before the Legislature's Oversight Committee on the Premier's Office reveals that provincial departments managed to successfully conclude only up to 58% of the cases referred to them. Between September 2004 to 8 October 2013, only 601 cases had been closed, leaving 1025 cases outstanding. In essence, the Gauteng Provincial Government ignored 787 (48%) out of 1626 tip-offs received from the National Anti-Corruption Hotline. No feedback at all was given in these cases which is proof that the Gauteng government has failed to act on corruption tip-offs in its various departments.

# A corrupt government

## 2012

The Star Newspaper newspaper reported that Mmemezi had used the credit card to indulge himself and others at restaurants across South Africa before leaving for India. Mmemezi also reportedly used the credit card to purchase an artwork worth R10 000 from fast food outlet McDonalds. He allegedly disguised the transaction as a purchase of hamburgers. Expenses questioned on Mmemezi's official credit card include groceries to the value of almost R7 000, R60 000 in clothing allegedly bought in India, and R10 000 painting bought from McDonald's in Silverton, Pretoria.

The DA previously called for Mmemezi to be sacked for misleading the Gauteng Legislature about damage to his official vehicle during an accident. West Rand teenager Thomas Ferreira was seriously injured when he was hit by a VIP vehicle linked to Mmemezi on the 11th of November 2011. He resigned in July 2012 when he was found guilty of contravening the Legislature's code of conduct and ethics, including using his government credit card for personal expenses. In 2012 again, the Gauteng speaker Lindiwe Maseko was embroiled in controversy with her comments to the media that she declared her financial interests, and that she did not believe there was a conflict in her daughter catering for a legislature function has raised the ire of political parties and civil society. The Gauteng legislature argued in Maseko's case, it was a coincidence that the body's opening dinner was hosted at the Dome in Johannesburg, which happens to have as its official caterers Delmont Caldow Caterers. The Speaker's daughter, Edna Maseko, was a director of the business.

## 2009

September 2009 - Premier Nomvula Mokonyane revealed in her r reply in the legislature that 43 officials were subjected to disciplinary processes out of 794 tip-offs.

# A corrupt government

## 2006-2010

Former Gauteng health MEC Brian Hlongwa was implicated in irregular expenditure during his tenure between 2006 and 2010. Hlongwa was implicated in a Special Investigating Unit (SIU) report in 2018 regarding alleged corruption involving R1.2 billion relating to tenders at the Department of Health. He allegedly received kickbacks, luxury trips and other benefits.

Hawks spokesperson Nomthandazo Mbambo says this forms part of the second leg of an investigation into allegations of gross irregularities in the department between 2006 and 2010. The Hawks said the department awarded several contracts to an entity or juristic person which was initially meant for two years at a cost of R68 million per annum. “However, this amount was allegedly overspent to the tune of R221 million without any consequences for the individuals involved.” The main contract was the establishment of a “Project Management Unit (PMU)” which was awarded in July 2007 and extended in February 2009 for another three years without putting it out on an open tender and at a cost of approximately R273 million per annum.

According to media reports, “several senior and executive officials in the department allegedly received gratifications from the main service provider and subcontractors in the form of cash, loans, gifts and all-expenses-paid local and international trips. It is further alleged that none of the Gauteng health department officials ever declared such gifts.”

Between 2015-2016- A total of 144 mental patients died as a result of a Gauteng health department project intended to “deinstitutionalise” certain mentally ill patients, by moving them from a licensed healthcare provider (Life Esidimeni) to several unlicensed community organisations. The decision to transfer these vulnerable individuals to a network of ill-equipped and under-resourced non-governmental organisations (NGOs) would ultimately lead to catastrophic consequences.

# A corrupt government

## 2006-2010

These 144 patients died due to sheer neglect, malnutrition, and lack of access to essential medication and care. The Life Esidimeni tragedy, as it would become known, sent shockwaves through the province and the nation, exposing the department's callous disregard for the welfare of its most vulnerable citizens. They died from neglect and starvation - allegedly in the hands of those who we're supposed to protect them in the public health system. Central to this was Qedani Mahlangu, the Gauteng member of the executive council (MEC) for health, who signed off on this so-called "Gauteng Mental Health Marathon Project", apparently to cut costs. February 2017- Mahlangu quits hours before a damning report by the Health Ombudsman's became public was released that laid bare neglect and callous disregard for vulnerable patients under her watch. In other words, no one took public accountability for their actions.

## 2019

By 2019 - Over the past 15 years the Gauteng Provincial Government has spent more than R550.4 million on Bosasa-linked companies. Gauteng Finance MEC, Barbara Creecy indicated that the relatively new department of e-Government spent R900 000.00 on one of these companies. The bulk of this money, R537 642 229.00, was spent by the Gauteng Department of Social Development, while the Gauteng Department of Education has spent R12 895 852.00. It was found that under Makhura, the money spent on Bosasa-linked companies have increased four-fold when compared to his predecessor, Nomvula Mokonyane.

Under Makhura money spent on BOSASA has increased from 108 million to R537 million more than 300%.

# A corrupt government

## 2020

October 2020- Gauteng Premier David Makhura on Friday announced the firing of embattled MEC for Health Bandile Masuku. Masuku has been on extended special leave since July 30 after allegations surfaced he facilitated the granting of multimillion-rand PPE tenders to his family friends.

The SIU found that the Health MEC Dr Bandile Masuku has failed to execute his functions in compliance with the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act. It was alleged Masuku played a pivotal role in the awarding of a R125-million PPE tender to Royal Bhaca Projects, a company 100% owned by Thandisizwe Diko, the husband of President Cyril Ramaphosa's spokesperson Khusela Diko. The Masukus and Dikos are family friends. Masuku's wife Loyiso is also a business partner of Thandisizwe's. Both families denied the allegations.

## 2021

Hlongwa was implicated in a Special Investigating Unit (SIU) report in 2018 regarding alleged corruption involving R1.2bn relating to tenders. He allegedly received kickbacks, luxury trips and other benefits. 2021 - Tembisa hospital corruption- Babita Deokaran a corruption whistle-blower is assassinated. 2021/22 - Special Investigating Unit (SIU) initiates investigations into the report on the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the Covid-19 pandemic. The report on the R432 million tender has still not been received by the Gauteng Department of Education. We still do not know exactly who benefited from this tender. (As of Feb 2024)

## 2023

13 November 2023 - MEC for Human Settlements and Infrastructure Development, Mr Lebogang Maile presented a comprehensive overview of the investigation into the allegations surrounding funding and loans to Nonkwelo Investments by the Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF). The investigation aimed to address concerns raised by a News24 article in July 2023, and provide clarity on the reported irregularities.

## 2023

The report, released by Human Settlements MEC Lebogang Maile on Monday, said it also appeared as if the GPF board tailored and amended policies and procedures to accommodate the project even when it was clear it was not financially viable. The report found the GPF and its board members contravened the PFMA and its own policies when it potentially irregularly approved a scope change for Nonkwelo's project from social housing to student accommodation. Despite this, the GPF had not attempted to properly recoup the R11 million in debt from Nonkwelo - another breach of the PFMA. Instead, the GPF entered into a settlement agreement in September 2020 where both parties would agree to sell the land that Nonkwelo was meant to develop, to pay off the debt. It is worth noting that the land was worth a fraction of the debt at about R2.4 million. It became apparent that the directors of the fund appear to have acted recklessly, and the important evidentiary documentation is missing, which has hindered the investigation team from doing a proper and effective investigation.

The Gauteng provincial government recently awarded a R350 million accommodation tender related to the Nasi Ispani program, which aims to provide accommodation for 6,000 crime-prevention wardens. The tender was granted to Solani Mthethwa, who previously served as the general manager of Dinokeng Tourism, a state-owned company under the Gauteng government. Solani Mthethwa's company, Solani Accountants, received the payment for the facility where the crime prevention wardens are being accommodated during their four months of training. Additionally, the Gauteng Department for Economic Development paid over half a million to two other companies registered under Mthethwa for accommodation and consultancy work.

# A corrupt government

## 2024

January 2024- It was revealed that during Mashatile's tenure as MEC for Human Settlements in Gauteng, his department paid R134 million to a company owned by ANC donor Edwin Sodi for a housing project in Diepsloot that did not deliver a single house.

This was one part out of a total of R828 million that was paid to Sodi by the department for various supposed projects. This is in addition to millions of Rands in loans granted by the Gauteng provincial government to a company owned by Nceba Nonkwelo, Mashatile's son-in-law. In turn, proceeds were funneled to another company that owns an R37 million mansion in Waterfall Estate where Mashatile had been living.

The DA has also submitted a formal complaint to Parliament's Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests. February 2024 - The Democratic Alliance (DA) formally laid criminal charges against Deputy President, Paul Mashatile, following severe allegations of corruption leveled against him which span almost two decades. These include an intricate web of nepotism and family patronage of which Mashatile is allegedly the ultimate beneficiary, with the most recent scandal is the purchase of a Constantia mansion by Mashatile's son-in-law, Nonkwelo, for R28,9 million by his company which allegedly still owes the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements R7 million for a failed Alexandria housing project.



# Conclusion

The consequences of this widespread corruption are dire, with the misuse of public resources depriving communities across Gauteng and South Africa of essential services, infrastructure, and socioeconomic development opportunities. This, in turn, exacerbates the country's deeply entrenched challenges of unemployment, inequality, and poverty.

Addressing the corruption crisis will require a comprehensive, multifaceted approach, involving strengthening governance structures, enhancing transparency and accountability, and rooting out political interference and patronage networks. Until meaningful and sustained action is taken, South Africa, and Gauteng in particular, will continue to bear the heavy burden of corruption, which has already inflicted profound damage on the country's social and economic fabric.