



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
Office of the Democratic Alliance
Hon. Yusuf Cassim, MPL



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24th July 2024

Ms N. Ngcakani
Secretary
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
Bhisho

Dear Ms Ngcakani

RE: Request to reconsider the hosting of the Opening of the Legislature and all future events within the Legislature Precinct

I hereby write this letter, to formally request that the Opening of the Legislature scheduled to take place on Thursday, 01st August 2024 at the Ntabankulu Multi-Purpose Centre, be moved to the Legislature Precinct.

During the 6th Term of the Legislature, the Legislature Oversight Committee had identified that rental and hiring of cars for ECPL events outside the institution and the hiring of tents during the State of the Province Address, as two of five major cost drivers. This event will necessitate significant travel and accommodation expenses for Members of the Legislature and associated staff, as well as extensive logistical arrangements for invited guests. Such expenditure is particularly concerning given that the Eastern Cape is currently in an economic recession.

The Premier has advocated for cost-cutting measures across government departments throughout his previous term in office, yet still sees fit to waste millions, money that the province does not have.

The costs associated with accommodation for Members and staff, rental of vehicles and tents, catering and other costs related to taking the event outside of the Precinct is of great concern. It would thus be appreciated if you could kindly provide me with a detailed breakdown of all costs associated with the Opening of the 7th Legislature, as well as a detailed breakdown of all costs associated with the State of the Province Address held in 2023 at the Legislature Precinct.

The Legislature has held several ceremonies of significance with excellence in the past and thus there should be no reason for splurging on a ceremony of this nature while the province is in a recession. The funds expended on these events could be better utilised to addressing pressing needs within the province.

I trust that you will consider this matter with the urgency it deserves and look forward to your favourable response in this regard.

Thank you.

Kind Regards

Hon. Yusuf Cassim, MPL
Chief Whip of the Official Opposition
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature