

Democratic Alliance speech by
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Premier Lesufi perfects the art of gaslighting Gauteng residents

Release: Immediate

20 August 2024

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Premier of Gauteng, like many of his comrades in government, has perfected the art of gaslighting. He stands before the people of Katlehong, promising hope and change. However, his actions tell a different story—a story of betrayal, deception, and utter disregard for the people he claims to serve.

He is a man who speaks of progress while presiding over decay and who offers empty promises while our communities continue to suffer. He presents himself as a champion of the people, yet he walks a path that leads only to further hardship for the people. Honourable Speaker, for far too long, our government has been held back by corruption. This is not an issue of a few bad apples. It is a deeply entrenched problem that has poisoned the core of our institutions.

These individuals have siphoned off resources meant for the public good, lining their own pockets while our communities suffer. They have betrayed the trust of the people they were supposed to serve, turning our government into a breeding ground for incompetence and greed.

While the Premier's speech is full of grand visions, it lacks the practical steps to deal with the challenges this province faces. The truth is, we cannot move forward as a province until we deal with these internal problems that have plagued us for so long.

Madam Speaker,

Numerous infrastructure projects, such as the construction of schools and housing developments, have been abandoned or remain incomplete due to corruption and mismanagement, leaving communities without access to essential services. Yet you saw the need to feed us with more empty promises and vague assurances. Your speech failed to articulate how you plan to address these outstanding key issues.

Honourable Premier, allow me to remind you that:

It is the same government you have the honour to lead that has held the reins of power. At that time, they had ample opportunity to drive meaningful change.

It is the government you have the honour to lead that has today promoted MECs who presided over many neglected and failed projects and are clouded with questionable integrity.

It is this same government you have the honour to lead that built the Mayibuye Primary School on a wetland. Yet no one has been held accountable for this.

It is this same government you have the honour to lead that has consistently failed to confront corruption head-on, allowing it to spread unchecked instead of taking decisive action. It is the same government that has enabled the culture of corruption to thrive at the expense of the citizens of Gauteng.

In May last year, this same government you have the honour to lead subjected the people of Johannesburg to Mayor Kabelo Gwamanda, a clueless man that has been yet again promoted as an MMC.

It is the same government you have the honour to lead that has subjected children at Hulwazi Secondary School in Daveyton to being taught in overcrowded classrooms. Many schools have roofs that are collapsing, broken windows, and a poor learning environment.

It is this same government you have the honour to lead that sees the R120 billion Gautrain project and the building of the four new hospitals as a chance to line their pockets in the spirit of 'comrades must eat', 'xinkwa' burotho.

Honourable Speaker, as we reflect on Women's Month, my heart goes out to the countless families who have been failed by this same government. To the mothers and fathers whose children's futures have been compromised by a failing education system and poor learning environments that have suppressed their potential and robbed them of the opportunities they deserve.

To the women who have endured the pain of seeing their children abused yet felt they had no choice but to stay in dangerous situations because there were no other options or support.

To the mothers who have lost their children in tragic accidents—accidents that could have been prevented if only our roads were properly maintained. The weight of that loss is unbearable, and the fact that it was due to neglect is unforgivable.

Madam Speaker, these are not isolated cases; they are symptoms of a government that has made a mockery of the sufferings of the people of Gauteng. This government has betrayed the legacy of protecting its most vulnerable citizens. These are your failures Honourable Premier, your legacy of missed opportunities. History will remember how, under your watch, corruption was allowed to flourish and the most corrupt were protected.

Ndo Livhuwa.

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