



21 January 2025

To: President of South Africa  
Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa  
Electronic message to: [malebo@presidency.gov.za](mailto:malebo@presidency.gov.za)

Dear President Ramaphosa,

### **MINSTER NTSHAVHENI: FRAUD AND CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS**

As a key party of the Government of National Unity (GNU), the Democratic Alliance urges the stepping-aside of Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni. This comes after allegations of fraud and corruption were leveled against the Minister, in relation to the irregular awarding of a service-contract tender during her tenure as Municipal Manager of the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality.

In 2009, Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality embarked upon a tender process with the objective of acquiring services from audit firms to produce annual financial statements on behalf of the municipality, at a budget of R584,000.00. Formal applications opened on 23 of June 2009 and closed on 30 June 2009. Five applicants submitted bids by the stipulated deadline, none of which included a bid by an entity called Makwande Chartered Accountants, the service provider eventually selected as the preferred provider, while associated costs ballooned from R584,000.00 to R2.3 million.

Revelations by the Auditor General (AG), and a subsequent judgment by the Polokwane High Court, found the tender process to have been irregular and detrimental to fairness and efficiency. In fact, the judgment handed down by Judge Gerrit Muller of the High Court referred to the aforesaid tender process as “repugnant and devastating” and he subsequently referred the matter to the Hawks and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for further investigation.

To illustrate this, the AG report into Ba-Phalaborwa’s 2008/09 financial year questioned Ntshavheni’s leadership of the Municipality, as the Municipal Manager and responsible accounting officer. In addition to this, the report alleges that the Minister did not take the necessary steps to prevent unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, which totalled R25 million.

An extensive investigation by the Hawks has resulted in a case docket being referred to the NPA for prosecution.

Given the seriousness of the allegations, Minister Ntshavheni has a great deal to answer for. It is, as you are aware, the firm view of the Democratic Alliance that no Minister who is accused of corruption should retain their seat in Cabinet. Retaining a Minister tainted by allegations of corruption and malfeasance in

her post is damaging to the integrity of the President and undermines public trust— in particular a Minister who holds in her portfolio some of the most sensitive of government departments and intelligence agencies.

I submit that it is in the interest of good governance, and indeed the health of the Cabinet and the Office of the President as a whole, that Minister Ntshaveni must immediately step away from her duties as Minister in the Presidency while these investigations are ongoing.

Yours faithfully,

**Dianne Kohler Barnard, MP**