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PATRICK ATKINSON, MP
DA DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON ON SCOPA

25 June 2025

Hon. **Songezo Zibi**

Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Per e-mail nnkabinde@parliament.gov.za; mmotumi@parliament.gov.za

Dear Chairperson,

RE: REQUEST FOR COMPREHENSIVE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SCOPA INQUIRY INTO THE ROAD ACCIDENT FUND (RAF)

The Democratic Alliance (DA) welcomes the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) resolution to initiate a parliamentary inquiry into the worsening crisis at the Road Accident Fund (RAF).

However, for this inquiry to be meaningful and in the public interest, it must be comprehensive in scope. A surface-level examination will fail to address the systemic mismanagement, misconduct, and abuse of public funds that have defined the RAF's recent history.

We therefore write to urgently request that SCOPA adopts broad and inclusive terms of reference for this inquiry to ensure it covers all key areas of concern.

We submit that the inquiry must specifically examine:

1. The conduct of senior RAF leadership, particularly that of the now-suspended CEO, Collins Letsoalo.
2. That RAF executives misled SCOPA by asserting that Letsoalo possessed a security clearance, when in fact no such vetting had taken place.
3. Whether his appointment was ever lawfully executed.

4. Letsoalo's repeated efforts to undermine the Auditor-General and his insistence on applying non-compliant accounting standards.
5. The disastrous decision to terminate the RAF's panel of lawyers (after which we are seeing a sharp increase in default judgments and legal costs.)
6. The RAF's multiple-qualified audits, casting doubt on the Fund's financial health.
7. Letsoalo's unilateral introduction of additional eligibility criteria for claims (which expose the state to potentially massive liabilities in the billions of rands, if worst-case projections materialise.)

The RAF remains technically insolvent, with outstanding claims amounting to tens of billions. That its CEO earned R7.1 million a year during this financial collapse is a further outrage. South Africans contribute approximately R50 billion annually through the RAF levy. They deserve an entity that is transparent, accountable, and able to fulfil its core mandate: providing fair and timely compensation to victims of road accidents.

The DA is committed to ensuring that this inquiry results in real accountability. We therefore trust that you will give serious consideration to our request and ensure that the Committee's work is both robust and far-reaching.

Yours sincerely,

PATRICK ATKINSON, MP

DA Deputy Spokesperson on SCOPA