



Provincial Legislature  
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**EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**  
Member of the Provincial Legislature

**Retief Odendaal, MPL**  
(Democratic Alliance Spokesperson on COGTA)



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18 July 2025

**To: Hon Zolile Williams MPL**  
MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs  
Eastern Cape Provincial Government  
Per email

Dear Hon MEC Williams

**RE: REDEPLOYMENT OF SUSPENDED KZN OFFICIAL MS CHULEZA HOMBISA JAMA TO  
EASTERN CAPE DISASTER MANAGEMENT UNIT**

The above matter refers.

It has come to our attention that Ms Chuleza Hombisa Jama, a senior official suspended from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs over serious allegations of fraud and maladministration, has recently been redeployed to the Eastern Cape's disaster management unit.

It is our understanding that Ms Jama was suspended in April 2025 following a forensic investigation into the failed R151 million Jozini water project. Despite this, she now holds a senior role in the Eastern Cape, reportedly as a result of a so-called "horizontal transfer" that allegedly circumvented the usual recruitment and vetting processes.

Given the scale of disaster relief funding now flowing into the province in response to recent flooding in Mthatha and surrounding areas, this appointment raises grave concerns. It undermines public trust and exposes vital emergency resources to unnecessary risk.

I therefore respectfully request your urgent response to the following:

1. On what basis and by whose authority was Ms Jama appointed to a senior role in the Eastern Cape CoGTA;
2. Whether the Eastern Cape department was made aware of the ongoing disciplinary process or any findings against her in KZN;

3. What vetting or background checks, if any, were undertaken prior to this redeployment;
4. Whether the redeployment was facilitated by national COGTA or directly between provinces;
5. Whether your department intends to review this appointment in light of the allegations and ongoing investigation.

This matter demands urgent clarity. The people of the Eastern Cape deserve the assurance that individuals appointed to manage disaster response are properly vetted, above reproach, and fully committed to the ethical use of public funds.

I thank you in advance for your urgent attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Retief Odendaal', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Retief Odendaal, MPL**

Shadow MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs  
Constituency Head PE South West