



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

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Attention: Dr Rolene Wagner
Head of Department
Eastern Cape Department of Health

Dear Dr Wagner

Re: Forensic Pathology officials arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol

On Saturday 18 October this year, the acting Regional Manager of Regional Forensic Services in Amatole and Buffalo City Metro regions, Mr Ronnie Malandela, was caught driving under the influence of alcohol in Willowvale.

At the time, he was driving a state-owned Ford Ranger which had visible signs of damage and according to local authorities, he had no valid trip authority in his possession. I have had sight of the Transport Department's Confiscation form, which clearly states that the driver was driving drunk.

Despite this, it is alleged that no disciplinary actions have been taken against him because of his political connections. He is still at work and performing standby duties. Furthermore, it is alleged that he has been advised to apply for retirement to avoid any disciplinary processes, to protect him.

On the weekend of 2 November, another Forensic Pathology employee, Mr Luyolo Matutu, was arrested for driving a state vehicle under the influence of alcohol. A case was opened against him at the Steynsburg SAPS Offices. It is alleged that he demanded the keys to the vehicle and attacked a female traffic officer at the scene.

I would like to establish whether disciplinary processes have initiated against either of the drunken drivers and if not, would you be so kind as to provide a full explanation for such. The Auditor General has flagged that consequence management in your department continues to be inadequate. It is critical therefore that you are seen to follow up and ensure that consequence management is applied in both cases, whether they face criminal charges or not.

The Eastern Cape Department of Health is factually bankrupt and cannot afford to waste money or resources. It is therefore reprehensible that officials in the department could face no consequences for wilfully breaking the law, abusing state resources and assaulting traffic officials.

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours faithfully

Jane Cowley

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jane Cowley', with a small flourish at the end.