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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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NAZLEY SHARIF, MP

SPOKESPERSON ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

8 April 2026

Honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa
President of South Africa

Per email: president@presidency.gov.za / malebo@presidency.gov.za / president@po.gov.za

Dear President Ramaphosa,

MINISTER TOLASHE: PRESIDENTIAL PERMISSION TO RETAIN GIFTS FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

I am writing to bring to your attention a media exposé¹ involving a member of your cabinet, namely the Minister of Social Development, Nokuzola Tolashe, who is alleged to have received two gifts from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of South Africa amounting to a combined value of approximately R1 million. The gifts in question are two BAIC Beijing X55 luxury SUVs which were allegedly given to Minister Tolashe's two children for their personal use. It is further alleged that the yellow SUV's ownership has since changed from Minister Tolashe's daughter indicating that it might have been sold.

Section 4.2 of the Executive Ethics Code² stipulates that no member of cabinet, whether national or provincial, may accept or retain a gift exceeding a value of R1 000 without having requested permission from the President or the Premier, respectively. Where such permission has not been granted the member must either return the gift, decline the offer, or donate the gift to the state.

Given that the gifts in question far exceed the value threshold stipulated by the ethics code, and in light of preliminary investigations which have now revealed that Minister Tolashe has seemingly retained these gifts and given them to her children, it is now a matter of public interest to determine whether you, or the Office of the Presidency, received the necessary request from Minister Tolashe to accept and retain them.

¹ <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2026-04-02-exclusive-the-mystery-of-minister-sisisi-tolashes-missing-suvs/>

² <https://static.pmg.org.za/docs/020628execethicscode.htm>

I would like to formally inquire whether Minister Tolashe submitted the necessary request to you or the presidency in line with the Executive Ethics Code. If the request was made, kindly provide me with any and all written and dated correspondence required. If not, kindly inform me of the sanctions you intend to take against Minister Tolashe for violating the Executive Ethics Code.

I look forward to your favourable response.

Best regards,

Nazley Sharif MP

Spokesperson on social development

Democratic Alliance

(sent electronically without signature)