



Office of the Federal Leader of the DA

**Geordin Hill-Lewis**

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30 April 2026

His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa  
President of the Republic of South Africa  
Union Buildings  
Government Avenue  
Pretoria, 0001

Per email: [presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za](mailto:presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za) & [president@po.gov.za](mailto:president@po.gov.za) &  
[mike@presidency.gov.za](mailto:mike@presidency.gov.za) & [malebo@presidency.gov.za](mailto:malebo@presidency.gov.za)

Dear President Ramaphosa,

**RE: THE REMOVAL OF MINISTER SISISI TOLASHE FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

I write to you regarding the increasingly serious allegations against the Minister of Social Development, Ms Sisi Tolashe.

I do so in a collegial but firm spirit, conscious of the constitutional responsibilities we share in this Government of National Unity, and of the obligation on all of us to rebuild public confidence in the institutions of the state.

The Government of National Unity was formed at a moment when South Africans demanded a new seriousness in government. It was, and remains, an opportunity to turn the page on years of weak accountability, institutional decay, and the misuse of public office. Central to this project must be a clear and consistent commitment to clean government.

You have repeatedly spoken of the need to fight corruption, restore integrity to public institutions, and build a capable state. These commitments cannot remain abstract. They must be demonstrated in the difficult moments, especially when allegations of misconduct arise at the highest levels of government.

The allegations now facing Minister Tolashe can no longer be treated as a minor political controversy or an internal party matter. What began with serious questions about vehicles allegedly donated for the benefit of the ANC Women's League, and reportedly registered in the names of the Minister's children, has now expanded into a broader set of allegations involving possible abuse of public office, possible misleading of Parliament, and alleged misuse of state-funded personnel for private household purposes.



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These allegations strike directly at the standards expected of a member of the national executive.

They are especially serious because Minister Tolashe is responsible for the Department of Social Development. It is the department entrusted with protecting the most vulnerable South Africans, pensioners, children, people with disabilities, grant beneficiaries, and families who depend on the state's support in moments of deep hardship. A department with this mandate cannot be led by a Minister under a growing cloud of allegations involving personal benefit, family enrichment, and the possible misuse of public resources.

The Department of Social Development must be an example of care, integrity and service.

I therefore urge you to immediately remove Minister Tolashe from the national executive.

You have also shown, in other cases, that you are prepared to act against members of the executive where their continued presence undermines the standards expected of public office. You placed Minister Senzo Mchunu on special leave while serious allegations affecting his portfolio were ventilated. Members of the executive do not have an automatic entitlement to remain in office while serious questions about their conduct damage public confidence in government. That principle cannot now be applied selectively.

The allegations against Minister Tolashe are at least as serious in their implications for public trust, and they concern a department whose work directly affects the poorest and most vulnerable South Africans.

This is not a request made lightly. It is also not a request to pre-judge any criminal, parliamentary or other investigative process. Those processes must proceed without fear or favour. But the standard for continued service in Cabinet is not the same as the standard for criminal conviction. Members of the executive must enjoy public confidence and must be able to lead their departments without serious and growing questions over their integrity.

In this case, that confidence has been severely compromised as the Minister is clearly unable to lead her department.

Your decision now is another test of the seriousness of the GNU's commitment to clean government. It will show whether the promise of reform applies only in speeches, or whether it applies equally to members of the Cabinet when difficult urgent action is required.



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The Democratic Alliance remains committed to making this Government of National Unity work in the interests of South Africa. But making it work requires that all parties to it uphold the highest standards of public office. We cannot ask South Africans to believe in reform while tolerating conduct that appears to undermine it.

I ask that you act decisively and remove Minister Tolashe from office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Hill-Lewis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**GEORDIN HILL-LEWIS**

**FEDERAL LEADER**