



KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Office
Leader: Sithembiso Ngema, Cllr
Chairperson: Dean Macpherson, MP
Provincial Managing Director: Gregory Dalton
Tel: +27 31 263 0351
www.dakzn.org.za
Suite 125, Island Office Park, 35 - 37 Island Circle

19 May, 2026

The Public Protector

Advocate Nompilo Kholeka Gcaleka

Via email: registration2@ppprotect.org

Re: Complaint and request for investigation into eThekweni Municipality Soup Kitchen programme

I hereby formally request that your office conduct a full investigation into the soup kitchen programme administered by the eThekweni Municipality due to serious concerns relating to possible corruption, financial misconduct, procurement irregularities, gross overpricing, and health and safety violations.

The municipality currently operates approximately 92 soup kitchens across the city at an estimated annual cost of R280 million. According to municipal tender and award documentation in my possession:

- Approximately R240 million has been budgeted for groceries and food supplies.
- Approximately R40 million has been budgeted for bread supply contracts.
- There are also contracts awarded for the supply of gas canisters and other consumables. The total amounts are unknown at this time.

Based on my review of the awarded tenders and pricing schedules, there appears to be extreme inflation of prices charged to the municipality by appointed contractors. One alarming example is a supplier charging approximately R2,500 for a 10kg bag of samp, which ordinarily retails for approximately R100 at major supermarkets and wholesalers.(refer to a company registered as MSILA MEDIA IN ANNEXURE A)

The scale of these discrepancies raises serious concerns regarding:

- Abuse of public funds;
- Possible collusion between officials and service providers;
- Procurement irregularities;
- Corruption and fraud; and
- Failure of financial oversight within the municipality.

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In addition to the apparent financial irregularities, there are also major concerns regarding the quality, hygiene, and safety standards of the food being provided to vulnerable residents through this programme.

Certain soup kitchens reportedly operate under unhygienic and unsafe conditions. One example is a facility located in Moorton, Chatsworth, which allegedly operates in a rat-infested environment. These conditions pose serious public health risks to beneficiaries who rely on these meals.

I respectfully request that your office investigate:

1. The procurement and tender award process relating to the soup kitchen programme;
2. The pricing of food and bread supplied under the contracts;
3. Whether there was any corruption, collusion, fraud, or maladministration involved;
4. The quality and safety standards of food supplied;
5. The oversight role played by municipal officials and political office bearers; and
6. Whether public funds have been misused or unlawfully diverted.

I further request that the investigation determine whether criminal conduct occurred and whether the matter should be referred to relevant law enforcement authorities for further action.

I attach supporting documentation, including tender award documents and pricing evidence, which support the concerns raised in this complaint.

Given the scale of public funds involved and the impact on vulnerable communities, I believe this matter requires urgent intervention.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. I trust that your office will give this complaint the urgent consideration it deserves.

Yours faithfully

Haniff Hoosen

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