



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GEORGE MICHALAKIS

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Ms Phindile Baleni

Director-General in the Presidency and Secretary of Cabinet

Per email: informationofficer@presidency.gov.za / nokukhanya@presidency.gov.za

Dear Ms Baleni,

IMMEDIATE LIFESTYLE AUDIT OF MINISTER PULE

I write today to request an urgent lifestyle audit for the newly appointed Minister of Social Development, Dina Pule.

As you are probably aware, Minister Pule has been involved in past transgressions which relate to abuse of office for financial benefit.

In 2013, Parliament's joint committee on ethics and members' interests found her guilty of failing to declare the financial interests of her permanent companion spouse, Mr Phosane Mngqibisa and lying about Mr Mngqibisa being her romantic partner, which allowed him to gain improper financial benefit.

The Public Protector found that a R10 million payment was not in accordance with Treasury Regulation 21 and was thus unlawful, improper, and constituted maladministration; that R6 million was unlawfully transferred to Mr Mngqibisa's own bank account from the Department's R10 million payment; that Minister Pule misrepresented her romantic relationship with Mr Mngqibisa and that he unduly benefited from spousal benefits; and that the Minister tried to blame staff for her failures which were unethical and unlawful.

Further, the Public Protector found that when confronted with conflicts of interest between the Department and Mr Mngqibisa, Minister Pule chose to further Mr Mngqibisa's interests. His company unduly benefited from the ICT Indaba because of Minister Pule's influence.

Given this troubling history, and how the Department of Social Development have been abused by its former Ministers, we believe that a lifestyle audit would be prudent at this stage, and that subsequent audits are done as a monitoring tool. Minister Pule must not be tempted to repeat past behaviours so egregious that she got removed, and an audit to serve as a baseline against which to measure and monitor her would help ensure the proper use of state funds.

We trust that you will see the benefit of this, especially given the fact that at least 26 million vulnerable South Africans are dependent on this Department for their survival each month.

I look forward to receiving your positive response in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Michalakis', is written above a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mr G Michalakis MP
Parliamentary Leader of the Democratic Alliance