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DATE: 16 July 2026

**TO: The Honourable Lazarus Mokgosi
Premier of the North West Province**

**FROM: Jóhni Steenkamp MPL
DA Chief Whip
North West Provincial Legislature**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR URGENT CLARITY REGARDING MEC KEOBIDITSE
EVELYN LENKOPANE FOLLOWING HIGH COURT JUDGMENT AND
PERSONAL COSTS ORDER**

Dear Honourable Premier Mokgosi

I write to you in my capacity as the Democratic Alliance (DA) North West Spokesperson on Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, following reports concerning a judgment of the North West High Court involving the MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, Hon. Keobiditse Evelyn Lenkopane.

According to reports on the judgment, MEC Lenkopane was ordered to personally pay the legal costs arising from litigation concerning the appointment of an interim board of the North West Development Corporation (NWDC).

Of particular concern are the reported findings regarding the MEC's failure to disclose material information when approaching the court on an urgent, ex parte basis.

The information reportedly not disclosed included a legal opinion obtained regarding the MEC's powers to appoint an interim NWDC board, as well as a formal meeting between yourself and MEC Lenkopane during which the legal opinion and proposed board appointment were discussed.

The court reportedly found that this information was material and that its disclosure may have affected the manner in which the court dealt with the application.

The reported conclusion that MEC Lenkopane failed to take the court into her confidence, together with the subsequent order that she personally bear the legal costs of the litigation, raises serious questions regarding accountability and her continued position as a member of the North West Executive Council.



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This matter is particularly concerning given that the litigation involved a serving member of the Executive in a dispute with her own provincial government, including yourself as Premier and the MEC for Provincial Treasury.

In the interests of transparency, accountability and public confidence in the North West Provincial Government, I therefore respectfully request that you urgently provide clarity on the following:

1. Whether you retain confidence in MEC Keobiditse Evelyn Lenkopane as a member of the North West Executive Council;
2. If you do retain confidence in the MEC, the basis upon which that confidence is maintained in light of the reported findings and personal costs order;
3. Whether you have requested or received a formal explanation from MEC Lenkopane regarding the circumstances that led to the litigation and the personal costs order;
4. Whether you intend to take any executive or other action in response to the judgment and, if not, why not;
5. Whether any public funds have been used to fund any part of the litigation concerned, including legal representation or related legal expenses;
6. What steps will be taken to ensure that no public funds are used to satisfy or otherwise shield the MEC from any personal costs order made against her; and
7. Whether, in light of this judgment and the broader governance concerns surrounding DEDECT and its reporting entities, you intend to institute or support an independent investigation into these matters.

Honourable Premier, this matter cannot be treated as an ordinary political or administrative disagreement.

Members of the Executive Council occupy positions of significant public trust. The people of the North West are entitled to know whether conduct that attracts a personal costs order and serious judicial criticism has any consequence for continued service in the Provincial Executive.

The DA believes that the people of the North West deserve a provincial government focused on economic growth, job creation, stable public entities and clean governance. Public confidence cannot be maintained where serious questions concerning executive conduct are left unanswered.



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A court has spoken. The Executive must now account.

I therefore request your urgent written response to the questions set out above.

Yours sincerely,

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Hon. Jóhni Steenkamp MPL
DA North West Spokesperson on Economic Development, Environment,
Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT)