



28 October 2024

Media Statement:

### **COPE calls on President Ramaphosa to dismiss under-fire Free State Premier**

For immediate release:

It's not just raining but pouring in the Free State provincial ANC government led by Premier Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae. Despite a high unemployment rate, the Department of Health has dismissed over 1,300 nursing assistants. Just last month, the Premier also terminated the employment of 150 staff in her own office.

While the Congress of the People calls for clinics to operate 24/7 and urges the national government to regulate this proposal, the Premier appears more focused on firing health workers. This raises concerns about her commitment to the people as she seemingly benefits her cronies.

Many health facilities in the Free State are seriously understaffed, and the few remaining health workers are overwhelmed and overworked. This situation directly impacts the quality of healthcare available to communities that desperately need these services.

“The Premier’s myopic decision to terminate these contracts compromise both healthcare provision and the livelihoods of healthcare employees,” COPE Acting Provincial Chairperson Nathane Makalo.

“Furthermore, this shortsighted decision compounds the ever-growing unemployment crisis in the province. She has become a real threat to the economic and administrative well-being of the province. The Free State province is in shambles and the Premier must resign with immediate effect.”

END:

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