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To all media houses:

COPE Calls for Political Tolerance Ahead of Bekkersdal By-Election

For immediate release

The Congress of the People is calling for political tolerance and peaceful campaigning ahead of the upcoming by-election for Ward 35 in Bekkersdal, set to take place on 5 February 2025.

This call comes in response to violent incidents that have marred the campaigning process, highlighting the need for respect among political parties.

COPE's candidate for Councillor, Lwazzee Kesupile, was assaulted by members of the rival ANC party while conducting door-to-door campaigning and putting up posters around the Squatter at Tambo Section. The individual responsible for the assault is known to COPE, and once the Electoral Committee seats, a formal complaint will be lodged. A case will also be open with the local police station for further investigation.

In a separate incident, COPE member Shila Kent was mugged by a criminal while going door-to-door, with his cell phone stolen. A case of theft has been opened, and local authorities have been informed.

Despite these challenges, COPE remains committed to its mission of eradicating lawlessness and criminal activities in the area, prioritising the safety and protection of women and children. ANC has dismally failed to uphold the rule of law hence the crime rate is high in Bekkersdal.

The party urges the local communities of Bekkersdal and the Tambo squatter camp to vote for COPE as a party that seeks to restore order, protect citizens and build a prosperous, crime-free future for all.

"If I'm voted Ward 35 Councillor, I will make sure that every resident of our communities' lives in a safe environment and also address the issue of crime," COPE's candidate for councillor Lwazzee Kesupile.

"We cannot allow criminals, and the ANC led coalition government to do as they please at the expense of our livelihood, we will continue together to build prosperity for our communities. Cope is the only party that is reliable, accountable and incorruptible. Political tolerance will ensure that all residents can make their voices heard in a safe and respectful manner during the upcoming by-election.

Issued By: Lwazzee Kesupile: 079 889 8936

COPE candidate for By-election Bekkersdal Rand West Ward 35

For more information,

Contact Cope Media on 061 994 7572

25 Medgate Centre. 05 Kingfisher Street, Helderkruijn, Roodeport, 1724
Johannesburg 2092 Tel: 061 994 7572 media@copesa.org.za www.copesa.org.za