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To all media houses: For immediate release

The Congress of the People (COPE) calls for citizen-based monitoring of service delivery projects and the real-time auditing of the newly approved R3.8 billion allocated by the National Treasury for infrastructure development in the West Rand District Municipality.

This call has been further emphasised by COPE candidate Uhuru "Lwazzee" Kesupile during the ongoing door-to-door campaign in Bekkersdal, ahead of the upcoming by-election for Rand West Ward 35 on February 5.

For years, the community has been neglected in terms of service delivery as the ruling ANC mismanaged public resources intended for infrastructure development, resulting in stalled initiatives meant to uplift the community.

The area is currently grappling with significant challenges, including high youth unemployment, inadequate road infrastructure and dysfunctional sewage and drainage systems. The local municipality continues to fall short in delivering basic services, such as regular refuse collection, leading to illegal dumping sites in every street corner. These conditions pose serious risks to public health and the well-being of residents.

Service delivery has completely collapsed under ANC governance, and there has been no significant improvement under the current coalition government.

In light of these circumstances, citizen-based monitoring and real-time audits are crucial not only to ensure that every cent of the budget is properly accounted for but also to prevent the ANC from misappropriating resources, as has been the case for the past three decades.

"We urge the community of Bekkersdal not to be deceived by the sudden appearance of contractors," said Kesupile. "They will not complete the road and infrastructure programmes that have only recently been started. This is a recurring pattern during every election, where the ANC pretends to be concerned about service delivery in our township, only to vanish post-election without completing the work."

"We demand accountability for this budget. It is time for communities to vote for change. The Congress of the People is the only political party that is reliable, accountable, and incorruptible. COPE will ensure effective service delivery in our township and create a conducive environment for investment, with the goal of generating job opportunities for our youth."

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