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To All Media Houses/ Editors

**COPE IS A VICTIM OF ROGUE CRIME INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS AND SUPPORTS FULL INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION.**

For Immediate Release

The Congress of the People (COPE) strongly supports the revelations by General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi on how SAPS Crime Intelligence was abused for political ends. These disclosures vindicate our longstanding concerns about the African National Congress (ANC)'s misuse of state resources to undermine political opponents. We categorically deny any involvement in recruiting police officers into our party ranks.

COPE was never engaged in any systematic or authorised effort to politicise the South African Police Service (SAPS). If any isolated incident occurred where individuals associated with COPE interacted with police personnel, it was unauthorised, contrary to our ethos, and does not reflect the party's official stance or actions.

COPE has always championed accountability, transparency, and institutional integrity—values that stand in stark opposition to the politicisation of state organs. Founded in 2008 amid the erosion of principles of democracy and constitutionalism post-Polokwane, COPE emerged to defend the Constitution and uphold the rule of law. Our record is clear: We vehemently opposed the disbandment of the Scorpions, fought against Jacob Zuma's state capture, and consistently advocated for independent law enforcement.

To the contrary, COPE itself became a victim of sinister infiltration and sabotage by rogue elements within SAPS Crime Intelligence. It was Jacob Zuma and Nathi Mthethwa who initiated the capture and abuse of SAPS Intelligence to fight COPE, viewing it as a significant threat to their power. Under then-Minister Nathi Mthethwa, these elements were deployed to sow discord, spy on our members, and dismantle our party.

Julius Malema has confirmed that when COPE posed a threat to the ANC's tyranny, they established a war room at Luthuli House and enlisted rogue elements in SAPS Crime Intelligence to target political opponents using state resources.

This pattern of state capture undermines democracy and misuses intelligence services against rivals. COPE calls for a full, independent investigation into these abuses to ensure justice and prevent recurrence. We remain committed to a depoliticised, professional SAPS serving all South Africans.

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