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To all media houses.

## **COPE IN LIMPOPO REJECTS MATHABATHA'S DECISION TO RESIGN AS DISHONEST**

For Immediate release.

The Congress of the People (COPE) in Limpopo unequivocally dismisses the resignation of former ANC Limpopo chairperson Stanley Mathabatha. We believe his decision to step down is not sincere, but rather a performance to cover up a long history of corruption and moral bankruptcy.

Mathabatha's sudden departure, citing unethical behaviour, misconduct, and a decline in ANC values, is a hollow attempt to rewrite history and deceive the very people whose livelihoods he and his comrades have systematically destroyed. This is not a moment of redemption but a desperate scramble to salvage a tarnished reputation as the ANC's grip on power weakens under its first coalition government since 1994.

Let us be clear: Mathabatha has no moral right to speak about values. For years, he was part of a corrupt system that hurt the people of Limpopo. His resignation is not a confession. It is a calculated PR stunt. If he truly regrets anything, he must come clean and explain which unethical acts he is referring to. The public deserves transparency and honesty, not crocodile tears from someone who benefited while others suffered.

Mathabatha's hypocrisy is laid bare when we recall his pivotal role at the 2007 ANC Polokwane conference, where he was a faithful disciple of Jacob Zuma. As a key supporter, he helped dismantle critical state institutions, including the Scorpions, a specialised unit that could have curbed the very corruption he now decries. In a 2025 media interview, Mathabatha himself admitted this was a "fundamental mistake," yet he conveniently omits his complicity in that decision. This act of sabotage weakened state capacity, paving the way for construction mafias and unchecked looting, as he later lamented. His hands are stained with the blood of a compromised justice system.

One major example is the R500 million broadband scandal from 2018. Under his leadership as Limpopo Premier, there were serious claims of mismanagement and kickbacks. His team called it a deliberate effort to "tarnish his name". Yet evidence of financial irregularities and the subsequent suffering of communities deprived of basic services tells a different story. This is the legacy he leaves behind - poverty, unemployment and shattered livelihoods - while he retreats to a comfortable exit.

COPE calls on Mathabatha to come clean. He must name those involved in corruption, explain the deals, and reveal the full damage caused under his watch. The people of Limpopo deserve answers and justice—not a carefully staged exit. If he refuses to be honest, history will remember him as one of the main reasons for the province's suffering.

His sudden moral awakening is an insult to those who bore the brunt of his unethical deeds. We will not allow him to deceive the suffering masses with this belated act of contrition. The time for full disclosure is now, or history will judge him as the architect of Limpopo's downfall.

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