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To all media houses

## **COPE SLAMS EC PREMIER OSCAR MABUYANE OVER DAMNING AUDITOR-GENERAL REPORT**

For immediate release

The Congress of the People (COPE) has strongly condemned the Eastern Cape government and Premier Oscar Mabuyane following a scathing report by the Auditor-General, which exposed alarming failures in governance, financial accountability and service delivery across the province.

The report revealed that under Premier Mabuyane's leadership, 97% of material irregularities in financial records went unaddressed. The Auditor-General also found R467.7 million in unauthorised expenditure, R2.7 billion in irregular expenditure and R148 million in fruitless and wasteful spending. The provincial legislature, once holding a clean audit opinion, has now regressed to an unqualified opinion due to widespread noncompliance.

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This ongoing failure shows that the government does not care about being honest or using public money properly. COPE believes it points to serious corruption and poor leadership in the province. This kind of neglect not only hurts good governance but also makes people lose trust in the government.

The Auditor-General found that departments such as Education and Health spent their full budgets but delivered very little, revealing a glaring gap between expenditure and results. This reflects poor leadership and a serious waste of public funds. How can the public trust a government that consistently fails to provide even the most basic services?

Despite receiving large budget allocations, key departments, including Education, Health and Human Settlements, continue to miss their targets. COPE sees this as a betrayal of the people of the Eastern Cape, especially the poor, who rely on these essential services for their survival.

COPE is equally concerned about the ongoing dysfunction in municipalities like Buffalo City Metro and Makana. Despite years of interventions, there has been no visible progress. This continued failure is a direct result of the Premier's inability to implement effective reforms or enforce accountability at the local level. We demand a full review of all municipal support strategies and immediate action to restore service delivery and public confidence.

As President Cyril Ramaphosa prepares for an oversight visit to Eastern Cape on Tuesday, we would like him to ask Mabuyane the following **QUESTIONS**:

How can Premier Oscar Mabuyane justify remaining in office when under his leadership, departments have spent billions without delivering even the most basic services to the people of the Eastern Cape?

Given the Auditor-General's revelation of R2.7 billion in irregular expenditure, what political consequences will be faced by those in executive leadership who allowed or enabled this financial mismanagement?

What has Premier Mabuyane done to address the fact that his own Office of the Premier is among the departments that regressed in audit outcomes and submitted unverified performance reports?

Why has the Eastern Cape provincial government failed to take corrective action in 97% of material irregularities? Does this not amount to wilful governance failure and dereliction of duty?

With critical departments like Education and Health achieving less than half their targets while fully depleting budgets, what justification can the Premier offer for not reshuffling or removing underperforming MECs?

COPE demands that Premier Mabuyane, who has shown no moral authority to lead, be held accountable for the province's ongoing governance crisis. We demand urgent reforms and consequence management and for the Premier to be personally accountable for leading by example.

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